

RAY LEWIS
EDITOR AND
PUBLISHER
HERMANT BLDG.
21 Dundas Square
TORONTO

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE

Digest

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION 1915-49

Vol. 41, No. 35

TORONTO, CANADA

December 24th, 1949



PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
21 DUNDAS SQUARE TORONTO



MERRY XMAS, HAPPY M-G-M NEW YEAR

Just a few of the "Friendly-To-Your-Boxoffice" attractions in addition to mighty "BATTLEGROUND":

★ ★ ★
GENE KELLY, FRANK SINATRA,
BETTY GARRETT, ANN MILLER in
"ON THE TOWN" (Technicolor)
JULES MUNSHIN, VERA-ELLEN

★ ★ ★
SPENCER TRACY, JAMES STEWART,
VALENTINA CORTESA in
"MALAYA"
Co-starring Sydney Greenstreet,
John Hodiak, Lionel Barrymore

★ ★ ★
"AMBUSH"
Starring ROBERT TAYLOR,
JOHN HODIAK, ARLENE DAHL
with Don Taylor, Jean Hagen,
John McIntire

★ ★ ★
BARBARA STANWYCK,
JAMES MASON, VAN HEFLIN,
AVA GARDNER in
"EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE"
Cyd Charisse, Nancy Davis,
Gale Sondergaard

★ ★ ★
SPENCER TRACY,
KATHARINE HEPBURN
in "ADAM'S RIB"
Judy Holliday, Tom Ewell,
David Wayne, Jean Hagen

★ ★ ★
"CHALLENGE TO LASSIE"
(Technicolor)
Starring
EDMUND GWENN, DONALD CRISP,
GERALDINE BROOKS and LASSIE

★ ★ ★
"STARS IN MY CROWN"
Starring JOEL McCREA, ELLEN DREW,
DEAN STOCKWELL with Alan Hale,
Lewis Stone, James Mitchell,
Juano Hernandez, Charles Kemper

★ ★ ★
"PLEASE BELIEVE ME" Starring
DEBORAH KERR, ROBERT WALKER,
MARK STEVENS, PETER LAWFORD,
with James Whitmore, J. Carrol Naish

★ ★ ★
"SIDE STREET" Starring
FARLEY GRANGER,
CATHY O'DONNELL
with James Craig, Paul Kelly

★ ★ ★
"SHADOW ON THE WALL"
Starring ANN SOTHERN,
ZACHARY SCOTT, GIGI PERREAU
with Nancy Davis, Kristine Miller,
John McIntire

RED SKELTON in
"THE YELLOW CAB MAN"
Co-starring GLORIA DE HAVEN
with Walter Slezak, Edward Arnold,
James Gleason

★ ★ ★
"NANCY GOES TO RIO" (Technicolor)
Starring ANN SOTHERN,
JANE POWELL
with Barry Sullivan, Carmen Miranda,
Louis Calhern, Scotty Beckett

★ ★ ★
"BLACK HAND"
Starring GENE KELLY
with J. Carrol Naish, Teresa Celli

★ ★ ★
ROBERT TAYLOR,
ELIZABETH TAYLOR
in "CONSPIRATOR"

★ ★ ★
"THE OUTRIDERS" (Technicolor)
Starring JOEL McCREA
with Arlene Dahl, Barry Sullivan,
Claude Jarman, Jr., James Whitmore,
Ramon Novarro

★ ★ ★
JUNE ALLYSON, DICK POWELL in
"THE REFORMER AND
THE REDHEAD"
David Wayne, Cecil Kellaway,
Ray Collins, Robert Keith

★ ★ ★
"THE SKIPPER SURPRISED
HIS WIFE"
Starring ROBERT WALKER,
JOAN LESLIE
with Edward Arnold, Spring Byington

★ ★ ★
"YOU'RE ONLY YOUNG TWICE"
(Technicolor)
Starring Dean Stockwell
with Darryl Hickman, Scotty Beckett,
Leon Ames, Margalo Gillmore

★ ★ ★
VAN JOHNSON,
ELIZABETH TAYLOR
in "DRINK TO ME ONLY"
Leon Ames, Fay Holden,
Percy Waram, Selena Royle,
Gene Lockhart, Edgar Buchanan

★ ★ ★
"DEVIL'S DOORWAY"
Starring ROBERT TAYLOR
with Louis Calhern, Paula Raymond,
Marshall Thompson, James Mitchell,
Edgar Buchanan

CLARK GABLE, LORETTA YOUNG in
"KEY TO THE CITY"
Frank Morgan, Marilyn Maxwell,
James Gleason, Lewis Stone,
Raymond Walburn

★ ★ ★
SPENCER TRACY, JOAN BENNETT,
ELIZABETH TAYLOR in
"FATHER OF THE BRIDE"

★ ★ ★
"DUCHESS OF IDAHO" (Technicolor)
Starring ESTHER WILLIAMS,
VAN JOHNSON, JOHN LUND,
PAULA RAYMOND
and four famous rhythm specialists,
Eleanor Powell, Lena Horne,
Mel Torme, Connie Haines

★ ★ ★
"ASPHALT JUNGLE"
Starring Sterling Hayden, Jean Hagen,
James Whitmore

★ ★ ★
GREER GARSON,
WALTER PIDGEON in
"THE MINIVER STORY"
with Leo Genn, John Hodiak,
Cathy O'Donnell, Reginald Owen,
Henry Wilcoxon

★ ★ ★
FRED ASTAIRE, RED SKELTON,
VERA-ELLEN, ARLENE DAHL in
"THREE LITTLE WORDS"
(Technicolor)

★ ★ ★
"ANNIE GET YOUR GUN"
(Technicolor)
Starring BETTY HUTTON,
HOWARD KEEL with Louis Calhern,
J. Carrol Naish, Edward Arnold,
Keenan Wynn, Benay Venuta

★ ★ ★
"KING SOLOMON'S MINES"
(Technicolor)
Starring DEBORAH KERR,
STEWART GRANGER,
RICHARD CARLSON

★ ★ ★
LANA TURNER in
"A LIFE OF HER OWN"

★ ★ ★
JUDY GARLAND, GENE KELLY in
"SUMMER STOCK" (Technicolor)
with Gloria DeHaven, Phil Silvers
Eddie Bracken

★ ★ ★
"MYSTERY STREET"
RICARDO MONTALBAN,
SALLY FORREST, Bruce Bennett,
Marshall Thompson,
Elsa Lanchester, Betsy Blair



Thank you...Mr. & Mrs. Exhibitor—
You've given us the Merriest
Xmas of all...and we'll make
yours the most prosperous New Year...

**The Happiest Bosses
in the Industry!.....**

Twas the night before Christmas,
 and all through the house
 There was Standing Room Only—
 even Santa Clouse.
 Our stockings were hung
 on the nation's marquee;
 And filled by exhibitors
 who made historee.
 Theatre managers were chanting
 (in basso profundo!)
 The praises of Twentieth,
 from beginning to end-oh!
 In a year that has brought
 the Square Deal Policy
 We feel quite secure
 in this prophecy:
 Come Dancer, come Blitzzen,
 come lines 'round the blocks(es)
 You'll always find them
 where Twentieth Fox is.



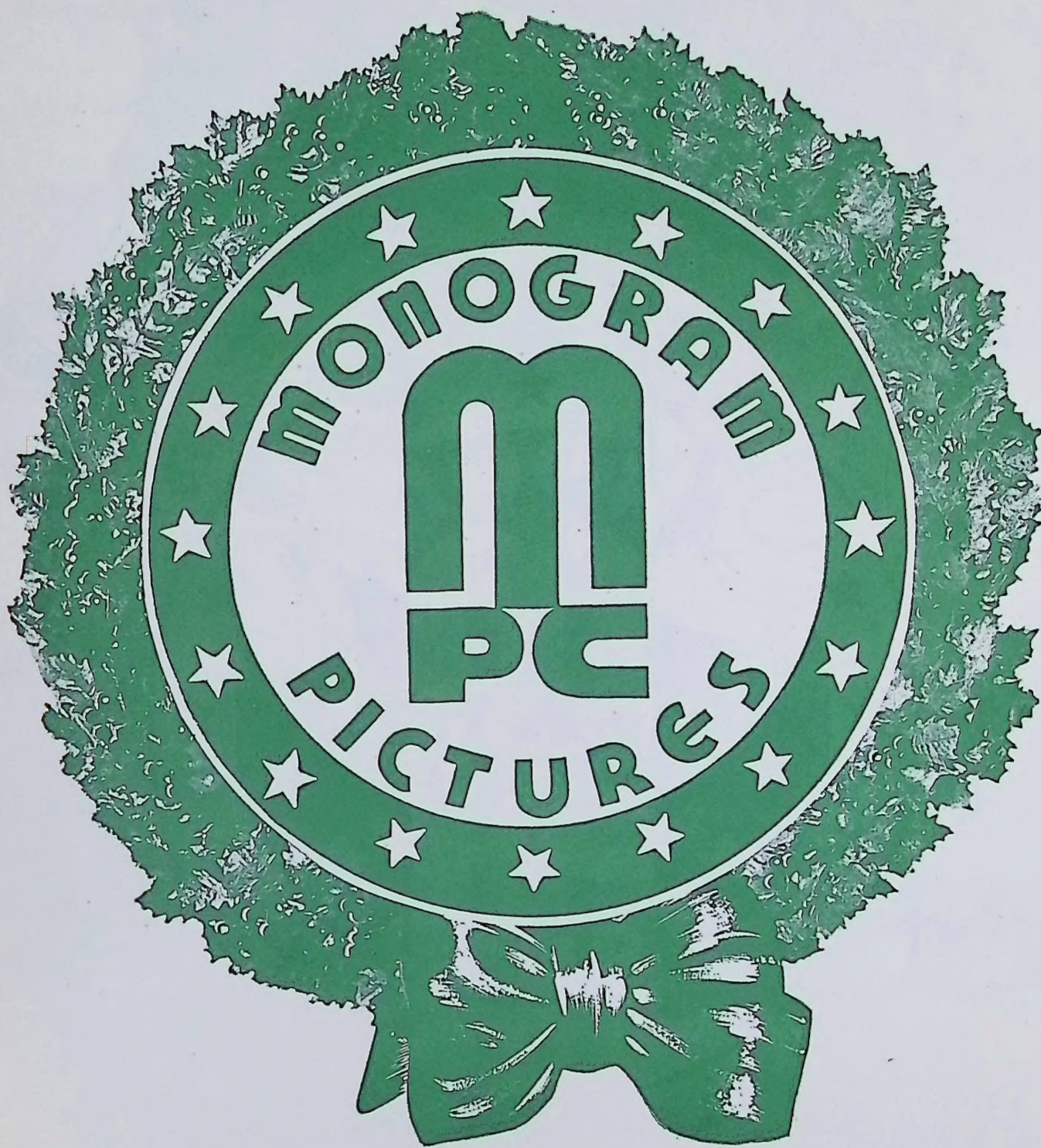
Bottom Row: Fred Dodson, Atlanta • Ralph Pielow, Jr., Des Moines • Joseph E. Neger, Kansas City • James M. Connolly, Boston • Clyde W. Eckhardt, Los Angeles • Sieg Horowitz, Philadelphia • Charles F. Powers, Portland • Vernon Skorey, Calgary • Gordon Halloran, St. Louis • Joseph Rosen, Cincinnati • Benjamin A. Simon, New Haven
• Second Row: Tom W. Young, Memphis • Tom McCleaster, Indianapolis • Tom R. Gilliam, Chicago • I. J. Schmertz, Cleveland • Joseph H. Huber, Winnipeg • Mark Sheridan, New Orleans • Charles L. Walker, Salt Lake City • Phil Longdon, Dallas • Dan Houlihan, Albany • Chilton Robinett, Seattle
• Third Row: Bryon D. Stone, Asst. Western Division Manager • Glenn Norris, Washington • Sam Diamond, New York • Marion W. Osborne, Oklahoma City • Joseph E. Scott, Omaha • Jack Lorentz, Milwaukee • James Patterson, Vancouver • John E. Holston, Charlotte • Alex Harrison, San Francisco • Reginald G. March, St. John
• Last Row: Herman Wobber, Western Division Manager • Arthur Silverstone, Canadian Division Manager • E. X. Callahan, New England Division Manager • V. J. Dugan, Denver • Gordon Contee, Pittsburgh • Howard Minsky, Mid-Eastern Division Manager • Peter Myers, Toronto • Moe A. Levy, Minneapolis • Jerry Chernoff, Montreal • Martin Moskowitz, Empire State Division Manager • Edwin W. Aaron, Mid-Western Division Manager • Joseph J. Lee, Detroit • Raymond Moon, Central Division Manager • Harry G. Ballance, Southern Division Manager • Paul S. Wilson, Asst. Southern Division Manager



There's No Baw



mas • Xmas
• Business!
• Like
• 20th
CENTURY-FOX



A Christmas Greeting To My Friends



Merry Christmas
To my friends,
And what I wish for you
Is laughter for your morning,
And the cleansing breath of dew,
Enjoyment in your daily work,
In everything you do,
Clear vision for your judgment
Of all the things you view.

May your Tree of Life be Evergreen,
And a star shine in your sky,
May there always be a mistletoe
For a kiss, as you pass by;
And as this old year limps away,
And you think of what has been,
May you thank The Lord Creator
As you toast the New Year in.

RAY LEWIS, 1949.

The Nation's Boxof



— and here's your money chance to give big, new, happy crowds the lowdown on a high-class gal who wants a carpet-slipper guy for a husband — and winds up with a pair of heels! It's wackie, wonderful, whooping comedy — and, take our word for it . . . any resemblance between this picture and complete insanity is *absolutely intentional!*

BIG NAT'L AD BACKING FOR YOUR BOXOFFICE!

One of RKO's top campaigns — including LIFE, LOOK, SAT. EVE. POST, COLLIER'S — WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, RED BOOK — Fan list and magazine supplements in newspapers in 32 cities!



fices Are Crying For



CREST PRODUCTIONS, INC. presents

CLAUDETTE COLBERT • ROBERT YOUNG • GEORGE BRENT

in

BRIDE FOR SALE

with **MAX BAER • GUS SCHILLING • CHARLES ARNT**
Produced by **JACK H. SKIRBALL** • Directed by **WILLIAM D. RUSSELL**

Screen Play by **BRUCE MANNING** and **ISLIN AUSTER**



SEASONS GREETINGS TO THE INDUSTRY



FROM OUR NEW HOME

COMPLETE FACILITIES FOR

16 AND 35MM PRODUCTION

AIR-CONDITIONED LABORATORIES

SOUND RECORDING

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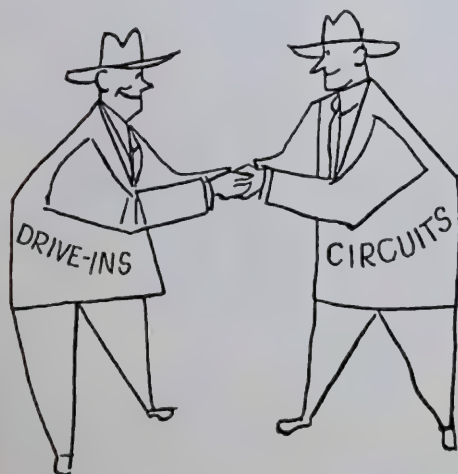
Film Highlights Of 1949

JANUARY

N.Y. Critics select "Treasure of Sierra Madre" as best picture of 1948; John Huston as best director; "Paisan" as best foreign film; Laurence Olivier and Olivia de Havilland as best actor and actress . . . Warner's starts indefinite studio shut-down . . . Hal Roach abandons films, will make TV productions only . . . SRO gives notice to all salesmen both U.S. and Canada effective Jan. 14th . . . **Survey of theatre owners reveals Sex, Crime, Costume pix B.O. poison** . . . Paramount Theatre, N.Y., televised Truman's State of the Union speech to 81st Congress . . . Eddie Wells resigns as Executive-Secretary of the Canadian M.P. Distributors Assn. effective Feb. 26th . . . Victor Fleming, 60, producer-director of "Joan of Arc" dies in Arizona . . . Warner Bros. nets \$11,837,253 for 1948 . . . Monogram, Allied Artists in 1 month production shutdown . . . Paramount, Port Arthur, opened by Famous Players . . . new Biltmore opens in Sault Ste. Marie . . . Disney shows loss of \$39,038 for 1948 . . . **British Exhibitors' Assn. asks lower film quota, says 45% unrealistic** . . . **Rumors of Canadian film quotas get international trade press headlines** . . . Wanger sues Universal, charges incomplete and erroneous statements on four of his films . . . Fred Dillon to be new executive secretary of the Canadian M.P. Distributor's Assn. . . Company presidents meet in Miami to discuss TV, morals, foreign situation, economy, and anti-trust legislation . . . Eagle-Lion back into production Feb. 16th with two pictures . . . **British pictures grossing over \$10,000 weekly largely due to "Hamlet" and "Red Shoes"**.

FEBRUARY

Canadian Picture Pioneers re-elect Earl Lawson as President at Annual



Drive-In: Merry Christmas!
Circuit: Happy New Year!

Meeting, Maurice Stein to be VP, Charles Mavety, Secretary, and George Beeston, Treasurer . . . **Royal Commission to be headed by Vincent Massey to review radio, television and film activities** . . . Film company 1948 dividends down 18% from 1947 . . . Odeon's Humber Theatre, Toronto, and Famous Players' Paramount Theatre, Halifax, opened to the public . . . Alfred W. Schwalberg new sales manager for Paramount, succeeds Charles M. Reagan . . . Universal reports net loss of \$3,162,812 for '48, compares with an equal profit in '47 . . . Bergman, Rossilini, Goldwyn and Lopert in reciprocal picture deal . . . 20th-Fox ask court to deny divorcement . . . Sovereign gets 16mm. rights to RKO-Disney product . . . **Schary reveals \$100 million worth of films planned at MGM by the middle of 1950** . . . MGM will retain sliding scale as basic sales format but drops policy of national release dates . . . Paramount Distribution and Exhibition to be separated, dual stockholding forbidden . . . Columbia stockholders approve Harry Cohen pact, re-elect directors and okay increase in board . . . Nominees for Academy Awards are Lew Ayres, Montgomery Clift, Dan Dailey, Laurence Olivier, Clifton Webb, Ingrid Bergman, Olivia de Havilland, Irene Dunne, Barbara Stanwyck, and Jane Wyman . . . J. Arthur Rank asserts financial position strong . . . Anglo-American advisory committee to meet for first time in Washington, April 1st . . . **Wilson calls emergency meeting of the National Film Production Council to discuss U.K. film crisis** . . . UA will enter 16mm. distribution field, will acquire rights from its producer-affiliates.

MARCH

Hollywood Plans \$52,000,000 worth of foreign production, half to preparation and U.S. talent, half outside . . . Andy W. Smith Jr. gets long term contract and is elected VP in charge of sales for 20th-Fox . . . Film rentals on the upgrade, most majors doing better currently than in the same period in '48 . . . **Vaudeville making a comeback**, circuits and big independents putting in live shows with one feature . . . Warners refuse divorcement, will not yield theatres without battle to highest courts . . . Liquidation of Canadian SRO contracts taken over by IFD . . . Paramount announces production schedule for full year ahead, first time ever . . . RKO and Disney complete deal for world distribution of next three Disney pix . . . **Monogram to invest \$4,000,000 in U.K. production** . . . Paramount's 1949

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Entered as Second Class Matter

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Editor-in-Chief

JACKIE ROSS

Assistant to the Editor

Address all mail to the Publisher
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

COMPANY, LIMITED

21 Dundas Square - Toronto

Telephone: Waverley 8696

Cable: Raydigest

Established 1915. Publication weekly.

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

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revenue tops '48 for first 16 weeks . . . Cardinal sales drive honors Harry J. Allen . . . Gordon Lightstone returned for 3rd year as President of Canadian Distributor's Assn. . . **MP Export Assn. bows out of German market, MGM first to apply for permission to deal in Germany.**

APRIL

Five Oscars for "Hamlet", three for "Red Shoes"; Jane Wyman, best actress; Huston, best director; "Monsieur Vincent", best foreign film; "The Search", best screen play . . . British Board of Trade asks 40% quota, exhibitors' plea is ignored . . . Rank "quite happy" with new quota, says U.K. can supply remainder . . . American Senator Knowland asks for Senate action on British Film Trade barriers . . . **20th-Fox's Al Lichtman seeks new sales format to give producers a "fairer share" of B.O. take** . . . University Theatre, Famous Players' 1,530-seater opens, 133rd greater Toronto house . . . Toronto's Variety Club Heart Award goes to J. J. Fitzgibbons . . . **40% British film quota approved by both Commons and Lords** . . . Jean Hersholt, resigning

(Continued on Page 14)



Digest: Merry Christmas!

Film Weekly: Happy New Year!

WARNER BROS

LAUGHS NOW!

LAUGHS FOR

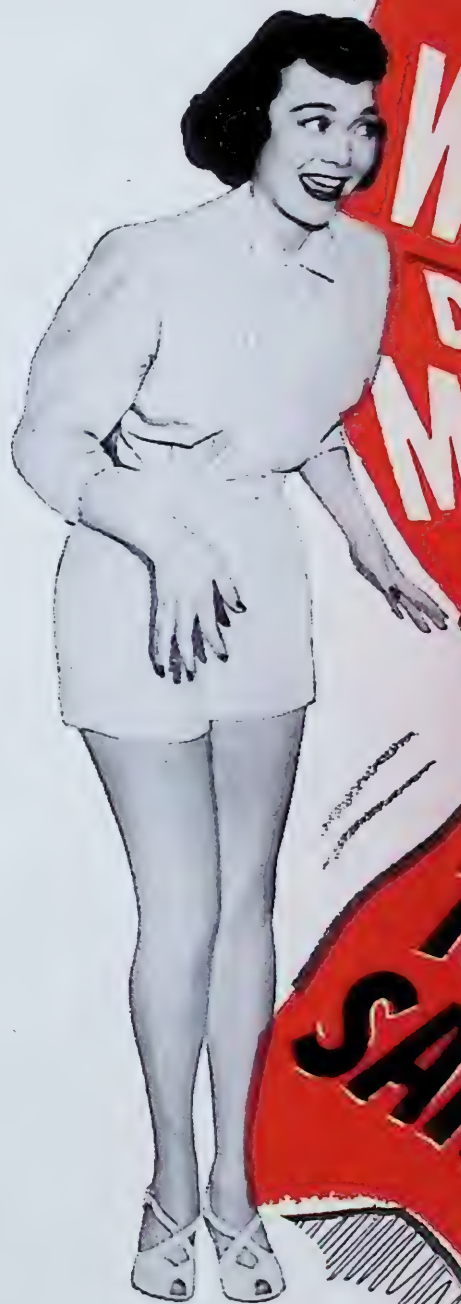
MILTON
BERLE

VIRGINIA
MAYO

ALWAYS
LEAVE THEM
LAUGHING



AND IT'S GOT
RUTH ROMAN
AND IT'S GOT
BERT LAHR
AND IT'S GOT
8 SONG HITS!



JACK
WYNN
DEN
MO
L
TAN
SAIL

PRODUCED BY JERRY WALD

DIRECTED BY ROY DEL RUTH

SCREEN PLAY BY MELVILLE SHAVELSON AND JACK ROSE

From a Story by Max Shulman and Richard Mealand • Musical Direction by Ray Heindorf
Musical Numbers Staged and Directed by LeRoy Prinz • Special Music & Lyrics by Sammy Cahn

FROM

GEARED TO GO

the happiness makers!

CHRISTMAS!

LAUGHS FOR NEW YEARS!



THE
MAN
HIS
ORGAN
THE
LADY
YES A
PR

DANNY
KAYE
THE
INSPECTOR
GENERAL

IN COLOR BY
TECHNICOLOR



WITH EVE ARDEN
ROBERT DOUGLAS

ALLYN JOSLYN TOM TULLY

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL CURTIZ

PRODUCED BY HARRY KURNITZ

SCREEN PLAY BY EVERETT FREEMAN

STORY BY JERRY GRUSKIN • MUSIC BY MAX STEINER

WITH WALTER SLEZAK
BARBARA BATES • ELSA LANCHESTER

PRODUCED BY JERRY WALD

DIRECTED BY HENRY KOSTER

Screen Play by Philip Rapp and Harry Kurnitz • Suggested by a Play by Nikolai Gogol

Lyrics and Music by The Associate Producer Sylvia Fine

Musical Direction and Incidental Score by Johnny Green



AS NEVER BEFORE!

HIGHLIGHTS*(Continued from Page 11)*

Academy President, flays industry heads for non-support . . . Loew's and RKO re-elect all officers . . . **20th-Fox's increased rentals plan meeting heavy opposition from theatre owners** . . . "Loon's Necklace" of Crawley Films wins first Canadian Film Award, special award to "Un Homme et son Peche" by Quebec Productions . . . Nassour group leading race for UA control . . . RCA demonstrates high quality TV equipment to cost less than \$25,000 per unit . . . British Gov't OK's \$20 million more in loan to film industry . . . Rank schedules 40 pictures for 1949-50, overall budget of approximately \$25 million . . . UA Nassour deal off . . . Wilcox's "Spring in Park Lane" gets all awards in London Daily Mail Film Poll . . . **MGM to enter 16mm. distribution field in Canada.**

MAY

TOA-Columbia agree U.S. Government "bringing in competitive bidding by the back door" in divorce terms . . . CBS to show color TV in May . . . AFL Film Council challenges MPIC in reissue abuses . . . Vaudeville to return to Palace, N.Y. on May 19th . . . TOA inaugurates weekly gross reports from and for members . . . Banking policy indicates TV a definite threat to the box-office . . . **Solid cash position is keynote of FPCC report** . . . Hamilton group takes honors at Dominion Drama Festival . . . Toronto Exhibitors protest movies at CNE grandstand, special committee of the city council concurs . . . Krim resigns from Eagle-Lion . . . Herbert Hoover wins Variety annual award . . . 1949 film revenues equal '48 rank . . . Skouras refuses to accept Schenck's resignation from 20th-Fox . . . Schenck plans new U.S. theatre circuit . . . **Canadian TV set back two more years, parliament rejects CBC loan** . . . Life Magazine goes to Hollywood to prepare more articles on the film industry . . . Montreal Pioneers hold big meet at Mount Royal Hotel . . . Variety Convention held at San Francisco . . . June CCO release to be printed on safety stock . . . New SRO line-up: Selznick, President; Case, VP; Deneau, Sales Manager . . . **20th-Fox 'revises' its Firm Deal Sales Policy** . . . Anglo-American Film Council reaches amity after two years . . . Korda to distribute own films in U.S. . . . Odeon, Ottawa, opens with Governor-General present . . . Sovereign opens office in Calgary.

JUNE

Selznick Releasing Organization-Alliance Films Ltd. amalgamate to form new Canadian distributing company.

(Continued on Page 15)

SPECIAL CONTRACT DIVISION

THE ROBERT SIMPSON COMPANY LIMITED

TORONTO MONTREAL REGINA

Highlights Of 1949

(Continued from Page 14)

Joseph Marks to head sales . . . Charles Brackett is new head of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences . . . No quota changes, Britain tells U.S. — Hollywood up in arms . . . Paramount hold sales meeting in Toronto June 15-17 with representatives from across Canada and head office . . . Ray Lewis and Natalie Fine sail for Europe on the Mauretania . . . "Reign of Terror" has co-world premiere at Montreal and Quebec . . . **Columbia profits on upswing, \$452,000 earned in 39 weeks . . .** Fox says new plan improves business . . . Johnston addresses Canadian Club in Toronto . . . RKO to extend vaudeville policy in U.S. . . . **World Theatre total 90,097 in 116 nations — up 14% . . .** Fitzgibbons calls for all-out welcome to tourists . . . WB net profits down . . . Dollar-a-car admissions tried in U.S. drives . . . Ken Leach re-elected president of Alberta Theatre Association.

JULY

Hanson-Jarrat sign Canadian deal for 20 Korda and Wilcox films, physical distribution to be done by Eagle-Lien . . . Canada to exhibit 20 at Edinburgh festival . . . Einfeld, Smith, Ballance, Levathes of 20th-Fox in Toronto for big meeting with Canadian exhibitors . . . Fox announces 30 big

pictures for '49-'50 . . . Alexis Smith P.A.'s in Winnipeg for 75th anniversary of that city . . . Large screen TV to be in Imperial, Toronto by fall, FPCC engineers announce . . . **Appeal for one man in booths of Alberta theatres goes to advisory board . . .** 40 U.S. exhibitors unite to finance independent "A" productions . . . Hollywood "controls" hit in LIFE survey, American circuit heads resent LIFE's slurs . . . **MPAA calls all-industry conclave in August to set up Public Relations program . . .** RKO Palace vaudeville shows to play 13 cities in U.S. . . . Cash and auto give-aways used in Denver . . . Jules Levey knighted in Italy . . . First half '49 sets record for theatre construction in U.S. . . . UA celebrates 30th birthday . . . **Name acts at Casino theatre, Toronto, zoom box-office grosses . . .** RKO announces '49-'50 product line-up at Toronto sales meeting . . . Rumors of Fox buying one-half of Odeon of Canada jam the grapevine . . . David Greisdorf named new General-Manager of Odeon Theatres of Canada . . . Ernest Fredman of the London Daily Film Renter dies suddenly in London . . . 19,000 jam Maple Leaf Stadium, Toronto, for annual Variety ballgame, gate estimated at \$40,000.

AUGUST

Royal Commission under Vincent Massey begins sessions at Ottawa, August 3rd . . . W. R. Frank, producer of "The Great Dan Patch", visits with Toronto exhibitors . . . David Coplan forms TV company in England . . . Rank-Skouras open negotiations in London . . . **Advertising films to appear in Canada . . .** U.S. Courts Rule total divorcement for Loew's, 20th-Fox, W.B. . . . Permanent TV for Fabian's Brooklyn theatre . . . **Vaudeville voted No. 1 business-getter in U.S. . . .** Film Corporations net income lowest since 1941 . . . **Famous Players span Atlantic to help British \$ crisis, deal includes Wilcox-Neagle and London Films pix, distributed through Eagle-Lion of Canada . . .** "Quartet" in 20th consecutive week at International Cinema, Toronto . . . Valour, Winnipeg, opens as foreign language theatre August 26th with "Wine of Love" (SARO) . . . 18 year association Bette Davis and Warners terminated at request of the actress . . . Universal - International concludes deal with J. Arthur Rank — former gets earnings on Rank pix in U.S. and Western Hemisphere — latter receives U-I's blocked sterling for production in England . . . Paramount to re-release list of former box-office

(Continued on Page 19)

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Theatre Confections Ltd.

284 KING STREET EAST, TORONTO

BRANCHES

VANCOUVER 36 POWELL ST. **WINNIPEG** 52-56 ALBERT ST. **MONTREAL** 954 ST. CATHERINE ST. W.

The Boxoffice Story Of The Man Between Crime And The Law!



Thieves and killers . . .
innocent or guilty, the bail
bondsman buys them
freedom while awaiting
trial. He asks no questions,
but has all the answers —
unless a dame or a dollar
causes his one mistake . . .
Then—the **PAYOFF!**



A



RKO
presents

GEORGE RAFT
ELLA RAINES • PAT O'BRIEN

DANGEROUS PROFESSION

with
BILL WILLIAMS

Executive Producer SID ROGELL • Produced by ROBERT SPARKS
Directed by TED TETZLAFF • Written by MARTIN RACKIN and WARREN DUFF





A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year



COLUMBIA PICTURES
OF CANADA LTD.

HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from Page 15)

successes . . . Alberta Supreme Court grants 1 man in booth decision . . . As of Sept. 5, Eagle-Lion of Canada to take over Eagle-Lion (Hollywood) product from IFD . . . B.C. exhibitors organize into an association . . . Paramount earnings up . . . Monogram and Allied Artists announce 48 for the coming year . . . Lopert makes deal with Paramount for 34 re-issues in 2 U.S. art houses . . . "Jolson Sings Again" beats Loew's 30-year record on opening day in pre-release date.

SEPTEMBER

Nat Taylor assumes presidency of IFD . . . Film Board requests corporate status in brief to Royal Commission . . . Controversy developing re "Sword in the Desert" . . . "Quartet" in 22nd week at Toronto's International Cinema, breaking any and all house records for the town . . . British Board of Trade authorizes transfer of \$500,000 advance payment against British film earnings in U.S. under Wilson-Johnston agreement . . . Warner Brother's 52 week Sales Drive kicks off with "White Heat" . . . Toronto Globe and Mail reports Nov. Parliament sessions to discuss pos-

sible currency restrictions — American \$'s and Canadian Trade deficiencies the cause . . . Olsen and Johnson gross \$400,000 at CNE grandstand show . . . Essaness Theatre Corp. and 9 subsidiaries file largest damage suit in history of industry vs. 12 big corporations . . . London Variety Club opened by Walter Pidgeon and Hope Burnup, London Managing Editor of the Motion Picture Herald . . . "Jolson Sings Again" sets new Chicago record at Wood's Theatre . . . Stanley Homer's "Home of the Brave" named for Royal Command Performance . . . Murray Silverstone due in London to formalize Fox purchase of Gaumont-Haymarket Theatre — no mention of Canadian Odeon deal . . . Dave Coplan to arrange distribution of 25 Parthian TV shorts in U.S. . . . "Africa Screams" breaking UA records in Canada . . . Chicago Public Relations Conference of U.S. film industry votes establishment of permanent PR council — acclaimed by industry's leaders . . . Corinne Calvet (star of Paramount's "Rope of Sand") and Jack Dempsey (producer of UA's "The Big Wheel") visit Toronto and score public-relations-wise . . . IFD announces renewal

of Associated British Pathe franchise . . . IFD takes over physical distribution for Astral Films, I. H. Allen to be sales manager for IFD's Associated British product . . . David Coplan new Managing Director for International Film Renters, London—to take over Film Classics for the U.K. . . . Golden Bear Award to Charles P. Skouras, President National Theatres, as "outstanding theatrical personality" . . . Canadian premiere of RKO's short, "Canada Unlimited" at Capitol, Ottawa, attended by Laurence A. Steinhardt, St. Laurent, Cabinet ministers and MP's . . . Hollywood invests \$14,000,000 in U.K. production under U.S.-U.K. agreement . . . British pound devalued to \$2.80 in American dollars, Canadian dollar follows suit, devalued 10% . . . Eagle-Lion shut down studio until New Year — top personnel given notice . . . Eric Johnston discloses foreign revenue tops pre-war . . . Sam Pinaski elected president TOA . . . Drive-in theatres forming own association in U.S. . . . World series to be televised to 24 U.S. theatres.

OCTOBER

U.S. Government proposes 18 month limit on execution of divorce decree for Warner Bros., 20th-Fox, and MGM
(Continued on Page 21)



NATIONAL
THEATRE
SERVICES
LTD.

SAM FINGOLD

RALPH DALE



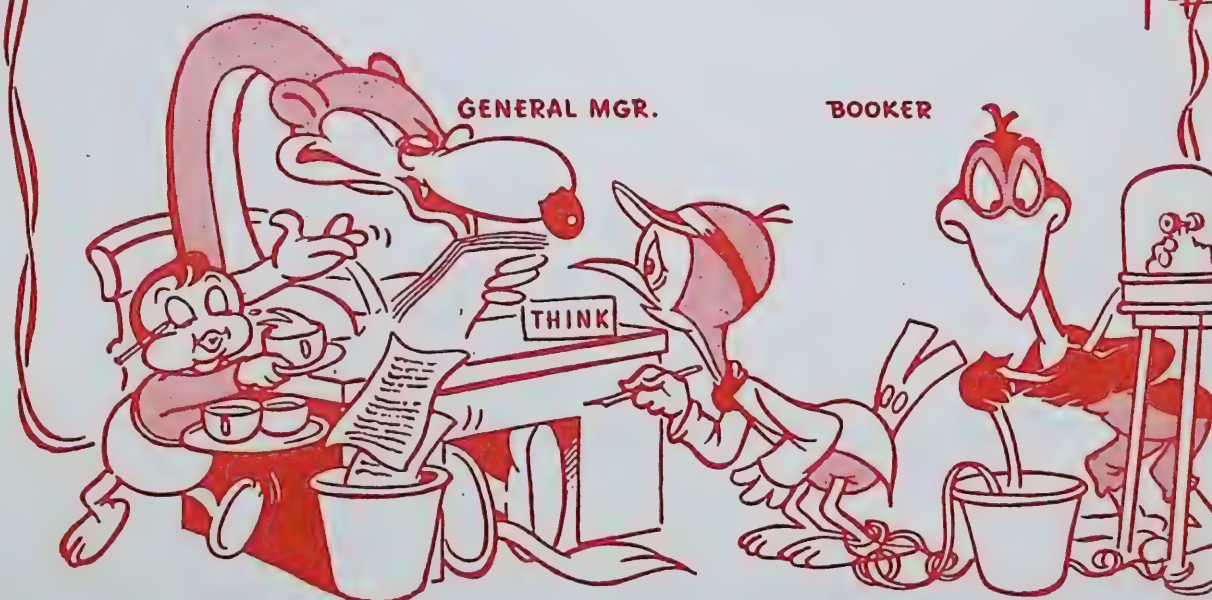
SEASON'S GREETINGS

From everyone at

EAGLE-LION

including the following characters in
David Hand's ANIMALAND-CARTOONS

Ginger Nutt, Hazel Nutt, Loopy Hare,
Corny Crow, Oscar Ostrich, Dusty Mole,
Cooky Cuckoo, Boko Parrot, Lena Lion,
Zimba Lion, Zimmy Lion, who will double
for the regular staff on Christmas Day.





Heartiest Good Wishes And Season's Greetings

To all our friends in
The Motion Picture Industry



CANADIAN NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY LIMITED

HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from Page 19)

... Layng Benefit Fund Show at Imperial, Toronto, attracts 3,500—Eagle-Lion donates "Spring in Park Lane" and stage and radio stars give service free ... "Jolson Sings Again" continues record-breaking holdover runs in all 4 pre-release situations ... Bob Hope lines up 5 personal appearances with radio show in Canada — to appear at Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, Oct. 12 ... George Formby vaudeville show sellout at Royal Alexander, Toronto ... "Gone With the Wind" held for 3rd week at Odeon-Carlton, Toronto and line-ups not decreasing ... FPCC executives visit key cities to outline British product plans ... Net theatre receipts in Canada set new high record for '48 of \$69,619,074 — additional theatres account for increased revenue ... Distributors announce accessory prices up since devaluation — British equipment prices down ... Paramount Theatre St. John, appeal against smoking ban dismissed ... Dominion government reports 1,917 theatres in Canada excluding drive-ins — 1947 report listed 1,693 ... "The Third Man", Selznick-Alliance release, gets grand prize at Cannes festival as best picture of the year

... Odeon shares in London drop \$15,000,000 in value in past six months ... "I Was A Male War Bride" reported outgrossing "Sitting Pretty" and "Belvedere" in 41 U.S. situations ... Steve Brody, Monogram, announces 16 before cameras during last quarter of 1949 with budget of \$3,000,000 ... Canadian Motion Picture Industry Council sessions get underway at Ottawa with 52 delegates plus observers present — Committee set, resolutions passed, next meeting to be held in February ... "Home of the Brave" causes riot,



Censor: Happy New Year!

Distributor: Happy New Year!

breaks all house records at Vanity, Windsor ... Hollywood to produce 35 pictures abroad during next 12 months in 22 countries ... Harvey Harnick, General Sales Manager for Columbia, honored with name sales drive this month ... CMPIC resolutions unanimously approved by delegates, await ratification by individual bodies ... J. J. Fitzgibbons appointed Chairman of CMPIC ... Honorable Robert H. Winters, Minister of Reconstruction, guest speaker at CMPIC meeting — praises film industry ... Winners of 9th annual Digest Showmanship Contest are Jim McDonough, Tivoli, Hamilton, for "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House"; Don Watts of the Nelson, Ottawa, for "The Great Dan Patch"; Mel Jolley of the Century, Hamilton, for "Apartment for Peggy" ... Oscar Hanson becomes a producer's representative in Canada for Allied Artists and Monogram ... FPCC continues picture deals with Fox, MGM, following visits of respective executives to Toronto ... MPTA of Ontario to hold annual meeting at King Edward, Toronto, Nov. 1st ... Quebec Allied meeting slated for Montreal, Nov. 7th ... Maritime Allied to meet Oct. 26th ... Toronto will vote Yes or No for Sunday sports on New Year's Day —

(Continued on Page 22)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from Page 21)

theatres staying out of fight . . . Rumors new foreign language theatre, Toronto, soon to be opened . . . First time in movie history, movie critics unanimous in praise of picture — it happened with Paramount's "The Heiress".

NOVEMBER

Maritime Allied Ratifies CMPIC resolutions unanimously at Annual Meeting — A. J. Mason of Springhill, N.S., reelected president . . . Two anti-trust suits totalling \$694,800 filed by California Independ. vs. Majors — charge conspiracy to deprive the plaintiffs of product . . . Eric Johnson in London asks reduction of British film quota — offers increased investment in British pix as trade . . . TOA and Allied oppose advanced prices on "Jolson Sings Again" . . . MPTA of Ontario passes resolutions of CMPIC unanimously — elects Roy Miller of St. Catharines as new president . . . MPTAO forms special committee under Dick Main to fight taxation . . . Rank reports £760,000 loss in annual report — will make only 7-10 pix next year . . . Astral's release "Lost Boundaries" in 9th week at the Towne Cinema, Toronto . . . Paramount winds up divorcement with new United Paramount Theatre company — national circuit of 500 wholly-owned U.S. theatres . . . BBC completing purchase of J. Arthur Rank's Shepherd's Bush Studio for TV production — Islington Studios and equipment being sold at auction . . .

Danny Kaye makes a personal appearance in Toronto for premiere of "The Inspector-General" and opening of Variety Village — scores instantaneous success with the public — fills the Imperial Toronto at \$5.00 to \$25.00 price scale . . . Quebec Allied pass CMPIC resolution unanimously — re-elects Arthur Hirsch president . . . Dory Schary reports 40 MGM pictures for next year . . . TOA unites to fight 20% admission tax in U.S. . . . Quebec exhibitors claim censor cuts hurt theatre attendance . . . Largest exhibitor representation to date attends Quebec Allied meeting . . . Herbert J. Yates returns from abroad — cites 5 European productions for Republic . . . Justice Samuel Rosenman on behalf of Louis de Rochemont's RD-DR Corp. and Film Classics to test Georgia Censor's ban on "Lost Boundaries" citing 14th amendment of the Constitution . . . Eric Johnston announces Motion Picture Association of America spent \$125,000 in 1947 to promote reception of British films in U.S. . . . 10th Annual Anniversary Dinner Motion Picture Pioneers toasts Cecil B. DeMille at Waldorf Astoria, New York . . . United Kingdom Film Council holding meeting extraordinary Nov. 30th, London, on "film crisis" . . . Eric Johnston talks to Marshall Tito — Jugoslavia makes deal on American pix . . . Max A. Cohn circuit sues 8 majors for close to 10 million damages re violation of anti-trust laws . . . Herbert Wilcox announces new producing company, "Artists Alliance Corp.", with co-operation of Ameri-

can interests . . . Paramount suit against 122 exhibitors in U.S. including Brandt Bros. for \$573,000 — allege short change on percentage deals . . . Rank gets \$3,000,000 from U.S. distribution this year . . . "Inspector-General" breaks house record at Imperial, Toronto.

DECEMBER

Calgary projectionists win 35% wage increase . . . Powell and Pressburger plan to make pictures in Canada . . . Lady Astor receives "Flagpole of the Month" Award for crashing the headlines at the expense of Hollywood . . . Hamilton Theatre Manager's Assn. benefit show for Variety Village nets \$3,500 . . . Saskatchewan exhibitors meet — ratify resolution of the CMPIC unanimously — re-elect George Miller, President . . . Harold Wilson gives no hope for increase of \$17 million annual remittance rate from film earnings in the U.K. . . . Released British sterling sells in New York for \$2.25 to the pound — can only be used to buy or produce British films in the U.K. . . . Canadian Motion Picture Pioneers Winnipeg hold big annual dinner dance, St. Charles Hotel . . . Pine and Thomas, Paramount producers, visit Toronto on yearly junket . . . Vaudeville is likely to become a regular diet for patrons of Loew's Uptown, Toronto . . . CBC revenue has almost trebled in 9 years . . . Amusement taxes during 8 fiscal years in Canada, collected by Dominion government, yielded \$88,582,128 as reported in the House of Commons.

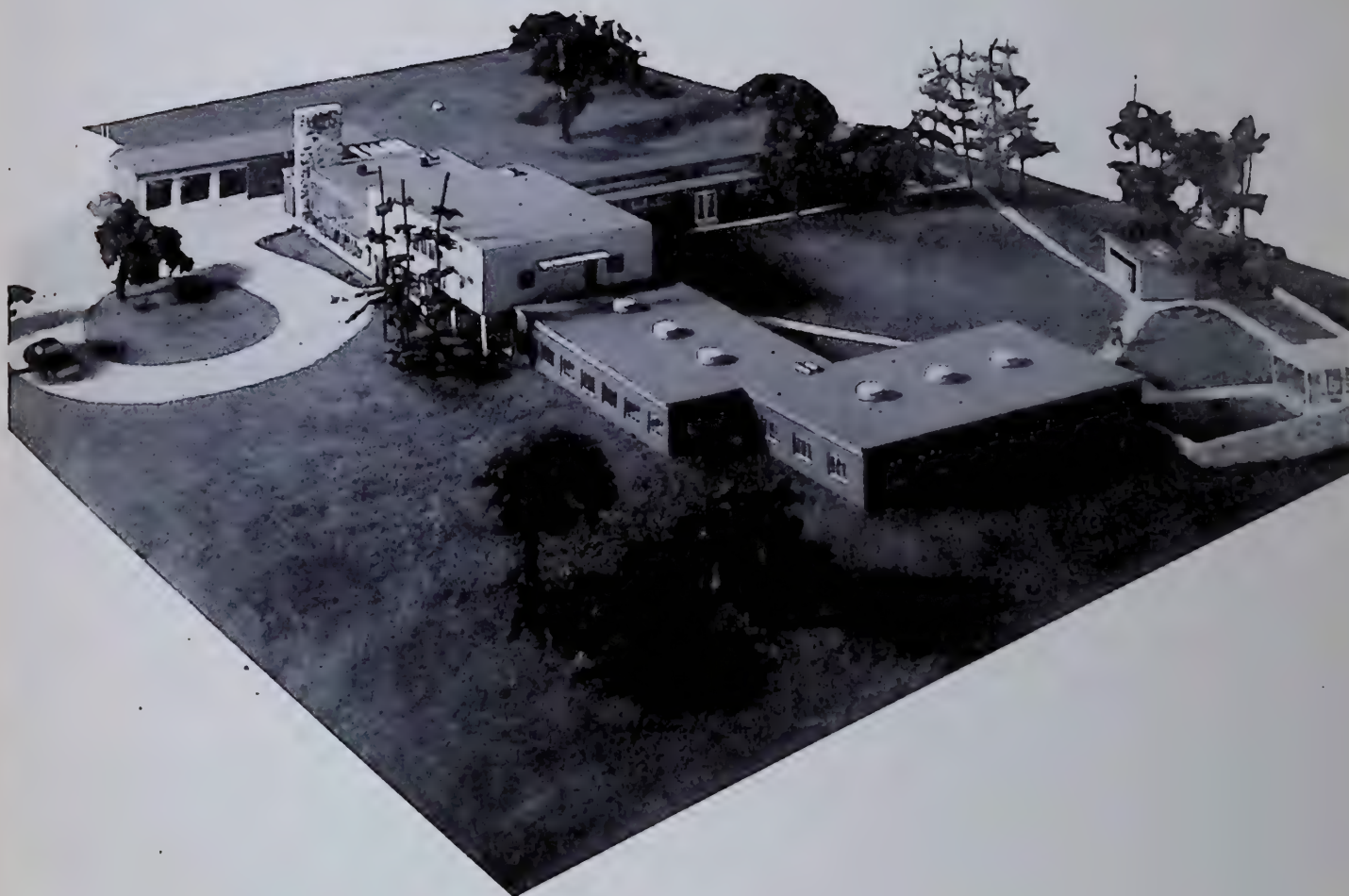
THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF PARAMOUNT WINDSOR THEATRES LTD. WINDSOR

Wish the Motion Picture Industry

A Happy and Prosperous New Year

S. MERETSKY, Managing-Director

Merry Christmas TO "VARIETY VILLAGE"



**AND
TO THE WHOLE GREAT
THEATRE INDUSTRY**

TORONTO
104 Bond Street

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208 St. Catherine St. W.

GENERAL THEATRE SUPPLY
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185 Portage Ave. E.

Illinois Federation of Music Clubs Endorses "Rigoletto"

It is my considered opinion that "Rigoletto" as performed by the La Scala di Milano singers is the most remarkable operatic film ever presented to the public. As a matter of fact it is not a motion picture — it is pure opera on the screen. There is no attempt at extraneous dramatization on the part of the producers; on the contrary, the film relies for its drama, its continuity and its climatic brilliance upon the unembellished wizardry of the great Giuseppe Verdi.

America has never heard greater voices, collectively if not individually, than are included in this picture. And as for acting, I have never seen the equal either in opera or pure drama — and I do not except even the fabled Shakespearean duo of the last generation, E. H. Southern and Julia Marlowe. The dramatic impact of Tito Gobbi's work in the lead role is sensational — it leaves the beholder breathless; and as for his voice, if there is one better adapted to the role than his, I do not know its possessor's name.

The scene portraying the death-throes of Gilda as portrayed by Marcella Govoni and sung and acted by her father, is a masterpiece of histrionic brilliance the like of which, in my judgment, has never been duplicated in America. If there are academy awards for such performances, there is surely none that can do full justice to the incomparable effort of this actor and actress.

I hope that all music lovers in the whole Chicago area will beat a path to the door of the Cinema Annex Theatre from Thanksgiving Day on. For there they will find, in my judgment, the most soul-satisfying musical masterpiece that filmdom has ever brought forth.

FRED R. HUNT

State Chairman of Motion Picture Music
Illinois Federation of Music Clubs

NOTE:—This is an unsolicited testimonial to the great motion picture "RIGOLETTO" soon to be released in Canada through the Selznick-Alliance Releasing Organization.

Frank Fisher Of Eagle-Lion Announces 1950 Line-Up

In the thirty films from the J. Arthur Rank studios which will be released in Canada through 1950 by Eagle-Lion, the Canadian distributor is again offering a selective line-up of features which have been picked for their box-office draw here and is backing up the program with strong pre-selling through national advertising, radio and promotions.

Frank H. Fisher, general manager, announced the details of the J. Arthur Rank-Eagle-Lion list this week.

Five features in the 1950 program including CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS in Technicolor and starring Fredric March; the Simmons-Granger drama ADAM AND EVELYNE, and Patricia Roc's comedy, THE PERFECT WOMAN, have already been pre-released in Canada.

Leading off for the New Year is the Technicolor spectacle, "The Gay Lady" starring Jean Kent as a dancing Duchess which will open in Canada immediately following its start in U.S. keys.

The new Margaret Lockwood romance, "Madness of the Heart" with Paul Dupuis as leading man is also ready as is an exceptional thriller, "The Hidden Room", starring Robert Newton, (Oliver Twist and Odd Man Out).

With British films very much on the upbeat at U.S. box-offices, Canadian releases during the next 12 months will be tied much more closely to American schedules, the Canadian Eagle-Lion head says, to give exhibitors here the benefit of promotion across the border. He noted that the three long-run champions in U.S. were still the J. Arthur Rank hits, "Red Shoes", "Hamlet" and "Quartet", two of which are now in their second year in New York at \$1.40 top and all of which are current in Canada at regular prices.

The emphasis on comedy will also apply to both countries. Sir Michael Balcon of Ealing Studios clearly evolved a refreshing new comedy style in "Passport to Pimlico" which was used here to test both the reception of this kind of film by American audiences and the selling method which would put it over. Three more from Ealing follow. "Tight Little Island" "Kind Hearts and Coronets" and "A Run For Your Money". The film version of the Broadway-London stage success, "Chiltern Hundreds" is a top entry among the 1950 Comedies.

Two more comedies featuring the Huggett family are also set, following the excellent run of the introductory one, "Here Come the Huggetts" at the Hollywood in Toronto.

John Mills, Britain's top male star, is in "Rocking Horse Winner" with Valerie Hobson; Trevor Howard in "Golden Salamander", filmed in North Africa and introducing an exotic new French discovery, Anouk. Mai Zetterling, after her outstanding performan-

ances in "Quartet" and "Portrait from Life" has two more scheduled for 1950 showings, "The Romantic Age" and "Lost People".

On the action side, "Diamond City" is coming from Africa and "Bitter Springs", starring Chips Rafferty, from Australia. Thrillers include "The Blue Lamp", "The Spider and the Fly", "Don't Ever Leave Me," "Boys in Brown," and "Train of Events".

The widely - discussed American story, "Christ in Concrete" has also been filmed in London by the Canadian-born director, Edward Dmytryk, under the title, "Give Us This Day".

Cecil Parker of "Quartet" will be back in the Arnold Bennett comedy, "Dear Mr. Prohack"; Googie Withers and John MacCallum in "Travellers Joy". Sydney Box at Gainsborough has taken six of the studios most popular young stars including Susan Shaw and Patrick Holt and featured the entire group in a marriage bureau story, "Marry Me."

Among features currently in release here, Frank Fisher pointed out that several, (release of which in U.S. was delayed), will still be getting first-run attention there during most of next year. As well as "Red Shoes", "Hamlet", "Quartet" and "Passport to Pimlico", this group includes "Blue Lagoon", "Saraband", "Sleeping Car To Trieste", "Scott of the Antarctic" and "Floodtide".

Eagle-Lion's pre-selling program in Canada on J. Arthur Rank films will continue blanket coverage of the Canadian film-interested public through magazines and major newspapers. In radio, three types of recorded programs are heard from more than 70 Canadian stations and a new star tie-up campaign is utilising street car and bus posters. Major national advertisers such as Kleenex and Lux will continue to feature J. Arthur Rank stars in 1950 and through a premium merchandising campaign starting this month, three million miniatures of star portraits will be distributed to younger age groups.

In the short subject field, Eagle-Lion is concentrating on three series, musical one-reelers with color by Technicolor, "Musical Paint Box"; the Ginger Nutt cartoons also with Color by Technicolor and the headlines-of-tomorrow series, "This Modern Age."

FLEMING RAPS GOVT. ON TV POLICY

Donald Fleming (PC, Toronto Eglington) criticized the government in the Commons last week for what he described as its "dog in the manger attitude" toward private television.

He objected to the refusal to let either private or government investment be made in establishment of television stations.

The government finally had decided to advance the CBC \$4,000,000 to start three stations in metropolitan areas — two in Montreal and one in Toronto. But it was wrong to give the CBC a monopoly.

It was wrong to deny other areas the benefits of television. The government should not refuse qualified persons the right to risk their own money in TV investment.

Mr. Fleming objected to the failure to table the CBC annual report to the Commons.

There had been a "lamentable tardiness" in tabling important reports at this session. The excuse was given that the CBC report was in the hands of the government printers. The government should have made a greater effort to have it available now.

Mr. Fleming also regretted failure to set up a house committee on radio. If members had known there was to be a big purchase of property by the CBC in Montreal they certainly would have pressed more strongly for a committee. One should be set up early in the next session.

The question of television alone justified one. Already valuable time had been lost by Canada in television because of the government's slow-moving policy.

William Benidickson (L. Kenora-Rainy River) reminded Revenue Minister McCann that vast areas of Northern Ontario had been neglected by the CBC although they paid for radio licenses and although they had been assured coverage.



Selznick: Merry Christmas!

Alliance: Happy New Year!

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HERBERT T. KALMUS, President and General Manager

A Decade Of Documentary

From pupil to teacher in ten years — this summarizes the National Film Board's progress during its decade in the documentary field.

Just a decade ago a small but select group of documentary film-makers were brought to Canada to launch the NFB and to train Canadians in the motion-picture art. Today, as the tenth anniversary year draws to a close and stock-taking begins, one of the most significant features is that the original situation is reversed.

Now, with one exception the Board is completely staffed by Canadians; NFB-trained personnel are working not only in virtually every production company in Canada, but more and more are winning important appointments abroad. In addition, the Board has become a mecca for foreign students of the documentary anxious to learn Canadian methods.

This year film-makers from Israel, Australia and Denmark, students from China, India and the Philippines, came to Canada to study NFB techniques that are, to quote the large Australian publication, Rydge's, "retaining Canada's lead in the making of documentaries."

Tangible recognition of the ability of individual staff members is shown in foreign appointments made this year. Accelerating a trend started in 1945 when executive officer Ralph Foster went to Canberra to organize the National Film Board of Australia, producer Robert Anderson, and animationist Norman McLaren this summer were awarded key posts in international projects. Anderson's Mental Mechanism series won him the opportunity to direct a similar series with the newly-established Joint Mental Health Board in the United States, while McLaren's experiments with animation and sound earned him the job of technical supervisor to a UNESCO educational film project in China.

In international film competitions, seven NFB films brought home awards this year: *Chante Jeunesse* won first prize for short subjects at the Venice film festival; two animated films, *Hen Hop* and *Fiddle-de-Dee* won prizes at the Brussels film festival; *Ski Skill* and *Hot Ice* were awarded a medal by Italy in a sports film competition; *Vegetable Insects* won first prize in a biological film competition at Cleveland; and last month *Cadet Rousselle* won an award in Italy's international documentary festival at Gardone.

Several new films are expected to attract wide and appreciative public response. They include: *Children's Concert*, the film-story of an Ottawa experiment in music appreciation; *Family Circles*, a forthright plea to parents for greater attention to a child's emotional needs; and *Ballet Festival*, a timely review of the highlights of the 1949 Canadian ballet festival for the CANADA CARRIES ON series.

The topical interest of the latter

film is reflected in the entire CANADA CARRIES ON series. *Passport to Canada* was an introduction to the immigrant people thronging to Canada with every sailing; *A Capital Plan*, an Ansco-color review of Ottawa in the making, coincided with the unveiling of the Greber plan; *Inside Newfoundland* was released the day the new province became part of Canada.

The summer months were marked by C.C.O.'s which dwelt on Canada's merits as a vacation land. *Summer Is For Kids* charmed film critics with its study of boys in camp; *Welcome Neighbor* was a friendly gesture to US visitors; *Famous Fish I've Met* gave Greg Clark opportunity to debate with Pete McGillen the relative merits of Canadian fishing and hunting. There were brief insights into world problems: 55,000 *For Breakfast* gave Canadian farmers food for thought, while *Valley Of Gold* brought attention to the gold mines of Val d'Or, and at the same time illustrated how the new immigrants are finding a place in Canada's industrial force.

On the statistical side, income earned in U.S. dollars from television, sale and rental of prints and theatre bookings reached a new high of \$53,790 for the first eight months of the current fiscal year. Distribution of Canadian travel films in the United States was credited this year with a share in the increased flow of tourists to Canada. Audiences of more than a million were reached through the 62 travel film libraries set up in 35 states, which were established last year by NFB and financed by the Canadian Government Travel Bureau. Four colour films — *Road to Gaspe*, *Canoe Country*, *Canadian Cruise* and *Winter Carnival* — were produced this year to suit the special needs of television as well as for distribution through the travel film libraries. At present over 10,000 prints of Canadian films are helping to sell Canada to prospective tourists.

Within Canada, travel films were screened for tourists at holiday resorts, exhibitions, and on summer cruise boats. Americans already visiting Canada discovered new places to visit next year, and Canadians were encouraged to spend travel dollars at home.

FIRE IN TILLEY, ALTA.

F. Henkel's Palace Theatre and two stores were destroyed when fire swept through the business area of Tilley, Alta.

PROFIT-SHARING PLAN ANNOUNCED BY SEARS AT UA SALES MEET

A profit-sharing plan for United Artists district managers, branch managers and other sales personnel was announced here by U.A. president Gradwell L. Sears at the final session of the company's recent two-day sales convention.

The plan is based on the percentage of increase in 1950 sales over current year figures.

The convention, which brought together company sales executives from all over the U.S. and Canada, was devoted to a survey of the UA releasing program for the next year, its "biggest in years." Merchandising, sales, advertising and publicity plans were outlined for the company's product line-up which includes:

"Champagne for Caesar," starring Ronald Colman and Celeste Holm; "Mrs. Mike," starring Dick Powell and Evelyn Keyes; "The Men," starring Marlon Brando and Teresa Wright; "Deadly Is the Female," starring Peggy Cummins and John Dall; "D. C. A.," with Edmond O'Brien; "The Big Wheel," Mickey Rooney, Thomas Mitchell; "Indian Scout," George Montgomery, Ellen Drew; "Quicksand," Mickey Rooney, Barbara Bates; "A Kiss for Corliss," Shirley Temple, David Niven; "Escape If You Can," Paul Henreid; "If This Be Sin," Myrna Loy, Peggy Cummins; "Johnny One-Eye," Pat O'Brien, Wayne Morris, and Dolores Moran; "The Whip," Herbert Marshall; Dan Duryea; "Iroquois Trail," George Montgomery, Brenda Marshall; "The Iron Cage," June Havoc; "Here Lies Love," Robert Young.

The convention was presided over by Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., executive assistant to Sears. Other speakers included Eastern general sales manager Edward Schnitzer, Western and Southern general sales manager Fred M. Jack, operations vice-president Harry D. Buckley, and advertising-publicity director Howard LeSieur.



CMPIC: Merry Christmas!

Government: Happy New Year!



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Merry Christmas
and
a Happy
New Year !!*

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MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
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The Season's Greetings*

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Season's

Greetings

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PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND ME, HONEY!



You all know that Danny Kaye is *The Man In The Case* (not a bad moving picture title, producers please note). The Digest will pay \$1.00 to each of the first twenty-five letters which come to The Digest giving the name of the woman, the time and place of this embrace.

*"Put your arms around me honey,
Even if you have no money,
Love me little, love me long".*



To WISH YOU AND
YOURS GOOD CHEER
AT CHRISTMAS AND
GREAT HAPPINESS IN
THE NEW YEAR.

FAMOUS PLAYERS CANADIAN CORPORATION

Canada's New 1949 Theatres

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Fox, Victoria, B.C.
 Community, Yubou, B.C.
 Studio, Vancouver, B.C.
 Paramount, Kelowna, B.C.
 Salmar, Salmon Arm, B.C.
 Paramount, Chilliwack, B.C.
 Pines Drive-In, Penticton, B.C.
 Village, Qualicum Beach, B.C.
 Loughed Drive-In, Burnaby, B.C.
 Keremeos, Keremeos, B.C.
 Boyd Drive-In, Kelowna, B.C.
 Monarch, Enderby, B.C.
 Main, Vancouver, B.C.
 Canadian Legion, Nakusp, B.C.
 Fraser, Vancouver, B.C.

ALBERTA

Kam, Camrose, Alta.
 De Ric, Redwater, Alta.
 Chinook Drive-In, Calgary, Alta.
 Starlite Drive-In, Edmonton, Alta.
 Roxy, Redwater, Alta.
 Aurora, Manning, Alta.
 Tivoli, Edmonton, Alta.
 Devon, Devon, Alta.
 Mandare, Mandare, Alta.
 Paradise Valley,
 Paradise Valley, Alta.

QUEBEC

Parish Hall, Charny, Que.
 Cercle La Gaiete,
 L'Annonciation, Que.
 Capitol, Sherbrooke, Que.
 Perro, East Broughton, Que.
 Parish Hall, Pont Rouge, Que.
 Laurentian, Baie St. Paul, Que.
 Lyric, La'Tuque, Que.
 Broadway, Montreal East, Que.
 L'Acceuil, Estcourt, Que.
 LaScala, Montreal, Que.
 Municipal,
 St. Gabriel de Brandon, Que.
 LaBelle, LaBelle, Que.
 Rio, Montreal North, Que.
 Cinema Dieppe, Montreal South, Que.
 New Cinema, Chambly, Que.
 Garden, St. Rose West, Que.
 Carribou, Ste. Anne des Monts, Que.
 Maple, Sutton, Que.
 Vic, Brownsburg, Que.
 Royal, Mont Joli, Que.
 Royal, Malartic, Que.
 Royal, L'Epiphanie, Que.
 Duchesse, St. Pascal, Que.

Laurier, St. Lin, Que.

MANITOBA

Parochial, Elie, Man.
 St. Pierre, St. Pierre, Man.
 Notre Dame de Lourdes,
 Notre Dame de Lourdes, Man.
 Drive-In, Winnipeg, Man.
 Legion, Swan River, Man.
 Dunrea, Dunrea, Man.
 Crescent, Swan River, Man.
 Parochial, St. Annes, Man.

ONTARIO

Broadway, Schreiber, Ont.
 Paramount, Pt. Arthur, Ont.
 Plaza, Nipigon, Ont.
 Wright, Keewatin, Ont.
 Inter City Drive-In, Pt. Arthur, Ont.
 Strand, Bracebridge, Ont.
 Rex, Tecumseh, Ont.
 Strand, Ingersoll, Ont.
 Imperial, Humberstone, Ont.
 Beach, Port Dover, Ont.
 Rio, Uxbridge, Ont.
 Chatham Drive-In, Chatham, Ont.
 Odeon, Stratford, Ont.
 Drive-In, Belleville, Ont.
 Drive-In, Kingston, Ont.
 Drive-In, Hamilton, Ont.
 Roxy, West Hill, Ont.
 Roxy, Midland, Ont.
 Winchester, Winchester, Ont.
 Champlain, Mattawa, Ont.
 Sudbury Drive-In, Sudbury, Ont.
 St. Thomas Drive-In,
 St. Thomas, Ont.
 Pen, Penetang, Ont.
 Birchcliff, Scarboro, Ont.
 Kitchener Drive-In, Kitchener, Ont.

SASKATCHEWAN

Loon Lake Drive-In, Loon Lake, Sask.
 Memorial, Lemberg, Sask.
 Lux, Meadowlake, Sask.
 Skylark Drive-In, Regina, Sask.
 Memorial, Antler, Sask.
 Rocanville, Rocanville, Sask.
 Capitol, N. Battleford, Sask.
 Community Hall, Strongfield, Sask.

MARITIMES

Atlantic, Sheet Harbour, N.S.
 Roxy, Buctouche, N.B.
 Capitol, Oxford, N.S.
 Bellevue, Caraquet, N.B.
 Andraeleo, St. Andrews, N.B.



The new Royal theatre at MONT JOLI, QUE. opened Nov. 5th.

Grading and preliminary construction work is already under way on a 10-acre tract of land on the Charles Bedford farm, Speedvale Avenue, for the erection of GUELPH'S first drive-in theatre. The location is a few locks east of the Elora Road just at the city limits . . . The theatre, to accommodate 450 cars, will be owned and built by A. Rosenberg of General Auto Supplies, a Kitchener and Guelph firm.

WILKIE.—J. Thorpe, on behalf of the Rotstein Theatre interests told Town Council of WILKIE, SASK., at a recent meeting that the organization plans to start work on erection of a new theatre there early next spring. This would be done, he said, if council would sell two 26-foot lots on Second Avenue between the Bowldrome and the government liquor store.

The last remaining link of the old silent movie days was recently removed from ELMWOOD, MAN., with the tearing down of what was the old Garden Theatre. The Garden held memories for moviegoers of 25 and 35 years ago who used to see such stars as Tim McCoy, Hoot Gibson, Ken Maynard, Bebe Daniels, Ramon Novarro, Lew Cody and Aileen Pringle perform on the screen . . . The Garden was constructed around 1911, and had a seating capacity of 350. In 1915 it was purchased by J. Miles, of Western Theatres, and managed by the late Gordon Ritz, who was known by almost everyone in Elmwood.

With the expansion of oil-fields in Alberta, the population is climbing in many districts which were formerly farm land . . . New theatres are opening up in many of the oil towns . . . Two recently opened were the Devonian at DEVON, and the Gaiety at LEDUC, both owned by Manuel Perczm of Leduc. The oil strikes are 20 miles from Edmonton. The name of "Edison" for 40 years a theatrical landmark at NEW WESTMINSTER will shortly disappear. The Edison Theatre, originally owned and named by the late Frank Kerr, is being modernized by Famous Players at a cost of \$20,000. When changes are completed it will be re-named "Paramount," the third Paramount theatre in B.C.

The Digest extends to the exhibitors of these new theatres its best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year

PROMOTIONOTES

An interesting scheme and one worthy of note has been devised by **Maurice Lucow**, editor and publisher of **Town Talk**, in conjunction with theatres in **North Winnipeg**. It's called **Bonus Bucks** and here's how it works. The various merchant-advertisers have gotten together on a plan whereby each store gives away a Bonus Buck with each \$1.00 purchase. (These cost the merchants about 2c apiece in the final analysis.) These Bucks are for use only in a weekly auction held at the **Palace and College Theatres** where they represent bidding power. All bidding is in terms of these Bonus Bucks and prizes range from washing machines to nylon stockings. However, the cost of the items (about 20 to each auction) is figured in the 2c paid by each merchant for his give-away Bonus Bucks. The theatres provide the auctioneers and run the auctions. The idea behind the whole scheme is to **keep the people in the neighborhood from going downtown to shop or go to the movies**. **Phil Young**, manager of the **College**, **Winnipeg**, shares credit for the scheme which is far exceeding the expectations of its sponsor to date.

The **birthday party gag** which we mentioned some time ago is spreading around the country and being used with great success. Recently, the **Odeon London** had a **birthday party** and garnered plenty of free news space and good will and, after that, the same gag was used by the **Odeon Humber** in **Toronto** with write-ups by **Toronto** movie columnists, etc. Taking a different tack, **Bob Maynard** of **Hamilton's Palace Theatre**, held a **Hallowe'en party** with the children dressed as everything from **Santa Claus** to **The mighty Joe Young** . . . another adaptable scheme.

Novel stunt guaranteeing that audiences would enjoy seeing 20th Century-Fox's **"Everybody Does It"** has paid off handsomely for several **Boyd Theatres** in **Pennsylvania**. Pegging the idea to the array of more than satisfied customers coming out of the theatre, **Boyd House** in **Chester and Easton, Pa.**, advertised the picture as follows: "After reviewing this picture, we heartily endorse it as the top comedy hit of the year! After seeing it, if you do not agree with our statement, we will present you with a ticket for our next attraction!" The idea brought standout business to the theatres, without a single payoff.

New Popcorn Bag

Movie-goers and exhibitors will welcome the news that a noiseless popcorn bag has been invented.

Popcorn has become the golden gusher of the movie industry in the past few years, and the familiar "rustle" of the popcorn bag has been the bane of many adults. But now a noiseless popcorn bag has been developed that is not only rustle-proof but porous as well, and small fry will find it literally impossible to fill it with water and drop it from the balcony or to blow it up and explode it like a bomb.

The idea for the noiseless popcorn bag was originated by **Hi-Land Paper Products Division** of the **Grand Bag and Paper Company**. Special paper for the new bag is treated to provide a soft cloth-like texture and is being manufactured by the **Riegel Paper Corporation**. The bags are being marketed under the descriptive trade-name of **"Blow-Pruf"** and more than one hundred million bags have already been used.

MANAGER WITH A CONSCIENCE

A feature story by **Ken Liddell** in the **Edmonton, Alta., Bulletin** dealt with **W. P. Pilkie**, **Vermilion Theatre** man. **Pilkie**, **Lidell** reported, offers widows a 25-cent admission rate. He caters to children at weekends and sees to it that the entertainment then is strictly of the family type. "There's nothing to stop children attending suitable pictures during the week, but if they do they are fined a penny by their teacher and the money goes to the **Red Cross**," the story said. **Mr. Pilkie**, a former general store operator, has been in the theatre business for 36 years.



Laboratory: *Merry Christmas!*
Distributor: *Happy New Year!*

Winnipeg News

By J. J. CONKLIN

THE remarkable run of "Pinky," the much discussed racial picture at the Capitol, is causing favorable comment from patrons. "I Was a Male War Bride" is in its third week at the Gaiety. The University of Manitoba students staged a theatre night at the Uptown on Dec. 2.

* * *

First annual meeting of the **Winnipeg Film Council** was held Nov. 26 in the **Winnipeg Public Library** when three outstanding films were screened. They were "The Loon's Necklace," *Searchlight on the Nation* and the **Julian Bryan** picture, "Boundary Lines." **John Paniz**, president of the council was chairman.

The council promotes and co-ordinates the non-profit use of 16 mm. films by recreational and educational organizations in the city.

* * *

Eighteen Eskimos to whom such natural wonders as northern lights and hundreds of seals sporting themselves on an Arctic Island are old stuff, got the thrill of their lives Thursday evening when they saw their first movie.

The polio-stricken Eskimos are inmates of **King George hospital** where the movies were shown by film committee of the **Junior Chamber of Commerce** with **J. Jack** serving as volunteer projectionist.

* * *

Griffins club thanks the public supporting its theatre night Wednesday at the Uptown. Some 1,800 tickets were sold. Welfare fund now stands at \$976.

* * *

Winnipeg's jazz-minded population Sunday evening was treated to a two-hour concert featuring various phases of Jazz.

A capacity crowd filled **Dominion theatre** for the event, the second in a prepared winter-long series sponsored by the "Jazz Unlimited Club."

With the exception of **Herbie Spanier**, who recently migrated here from **Regina, Sask.**, the group was composed of artists familiar about **Winnipeg**.

* * *

At **Cypress River, Southern Manitoba**, **Shareholders** of the moving picture club met recently to elect the following; **D. F. Campbell**, president; **Don Burgess**, vice-president; **Mrs. D. Burgess**, secretary-treasurer; **A. Mawby**, **R. Sutherland**, executive.

For a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

SPECTACLE BEYOND BELIEF...

FROM THE LUSTIEST
DAYS OF ROMANCE
AND PAGEANTRY
COMES THE
GREATEST
ADVENTURE
OF THEM ALL...



ALLIANCE
FILMS
PRESENTS

the IRON CROWN

Directed by **ALESSANDRO BLASETTI**
"English Narration and Titles"

Cast

Massimo Girotti
Elisa Cegani
Gino Cervi
Primo Carnera

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SAMSON AND DELILAH

PRIOR to the Cecil B. De Mille production of this well-known Biblical love story, it was reported that the producer devoted a period of twelve years to Research, in order that the background, the accessories, the settings, the costumes, habits and customs of the Philistines, worshippers of the God Dagon, and of Samson's people, the Danites, should be faithfully reproduced and presented.

Some of you are no doubt familiar with the Biblical story of Samson and Delilah, and when you see the DeMille presentation you will be able to determine for yourself how much of the story is historical research, filling in the gaps which the writers in Judges' chapter XIII eliminated as unnecessary to the moral of the story of this historical event; and how much poetic license De Mille has taken in order to make Samson and Delilah a plausible and actionful story of opulent richness, spectacular magnificence and in the words of Cecil De Mille, "the greatest love story since the beginning of man and woman". I am quoting the latter sentence from an advertisement in our Toronto press, which heralds the premiere of Samson and Delilah at the Victoria Theatre, Toronto, Dec. 26th.

When Samson and Delilah was screened for the Paramount executives, they all agreed that here was a magnificent production but how to sell its splendour to audiences was a Samsonian riddle. As a Biblical story, the market might be limited, for the public might conceive the idea that Samson and Delilah is a religious picture. It was Adolph Zukor, veteran and pioneer showman, who solved the problem by advising, "sell it as the greatest love story ever written".

That it is a great love story no one will deny, a love story of passion of tenderness, of violent love and hate, of cruelty and remorse, cataclysmic in their effect and carrying in them the truth of the ominously prophetic sentence "The wages of sin is Death".

Samson, according to the Biblical interpretation of his name, means "of the sun". He was the last of the twelve judges, the son of Manoah, a native of Zorah, which belonged to Dan. He was "a nazarine unto God" from his birth, the first Nazarite mentioned in the scriptures. He was not a leader of his people in war or in peace, but he belonged to the warlike tribe of Dan and his history deals with personal exploits against the Philistines.

Being a man of singular and prodigious strength, he attributed his strength to the Power of the Lord as long as he, Samson, remembered that "he was consecrated, even before his birth, to the services of Jehovah."

Delilah means "Betrayer", and in Biblical history, she is recorded as a courtesan from the valley of Sortek. The lords of the Philistines came to

this woman, Delilah, and promised her eleven hundred pieces of silver if she would find out the secret of Samson's strength, that he might be delivered into their hands.

Samson reveals the secret of his strength to Delilah, and is sheared like a lamb by Delilah, for he has revealed to Delilah that his strength is in his seven locks of hair. A Nazarite, consecrated to The Lord, never permits his head to be shaven, nor the locks of his hair to be cut.

The Philistines were determined to get Samson, for, in revenge for the loss of his wife, the woman from Timnath, daughter of the Philistines, Samson had burned their stocks of corn, their vineyards and their olives.

The Philistines manouvred to destroy Samson, and sent a thousand armed men against him. Samson's people are aware that the Philistines are afflicting them unto death because of Samson, and that they will not cease their revenge until Samson is delivered unto them. Therefore, they seize Samson, bind him, and bring him down from the rock of Etam, they deliver him to the Philistines, who are the rulers over them.

It is then written that The Spirit of The Lord came upon Samson, who broke the cords which bound him, and Samson slew a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass.

This spectacular episode is presented in De Mille's production, as is, also, the story of the slaying of a lion with his bare hands, in the vineyards of Timnath which belonged to his prospective father-in-law.

The scenes of the slaying of the young lion are as thrilling as any conjured up by Edgar Rice Burroughs for his Tarzan; and Victor Mature, who is Samson, recalls to mind his exploits of strength in the Hal Roach production, *One Million B.C.*

Samson's first betrayal is his own, when he leaves his people to take unto himself a wife from the Philistines, because she pleases him, for the prophecy, as it is written, is that Samson "shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb" and "that he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines".

It was at that time a custom for the groom to make a feast for his bride and her family, when he took unto himself a wife, and Samson made such a feast, in which he propounded a riddle on a wager with the Philistines.

It so happened, that when Samson went forth to take his wife, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion which he had slain, and there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass, and he ate of the honey and gave some to his father and to his mother. Therefore, the riddle on which he made a wager with the Philistines was as follows: "Out of the eater

came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness".

The Philistines prevail on Samson's wife to entice from him the answer to the riddle, which on the 7th day of the marriage feast she does; and she gives the answer of the riddle to the Philistines.

Samson, hearing the answer, knows that his wife has betrayed him; and to pay his wager, he goes down to Ashkelon, and slays thirty men of them, taking from them the spoils and garments with which to pay his wager.

De Mille's Samson and Delilah opus presents such scenes, providing plenty of fighting action, between the scenes of sensuous love-making, the feasts and revelry which reveal the De Mille master-hand for orgies of opulent splendour.

Throughout this picture, De Mille has tenaciously held to the one passionate love story, the passion of Samson and Delilah, for the love scenes between Samson and his Philistine wife are as calm as twilight, the love of Miriam, a daughter of his own people, for him is as free from passion as a benediction, the love scenes of the King of the Philistines and Delilah are as cool as a summer breeze, thus reserving for the love scenes between Samson and Delilah "the greatest love story since the beginning of man and woman".

When Delilah betrays Samson and he is shorn of his strength, and delivered to the Philistines, Delilah receives 1100 pieces of silver from each of the Philistine rulers, from whom she further exacts a promise that his flesh shall not be scarred, nor his blood shed. Samson's eyes are burned out, and he is dragged to the city of Gaza and to the prison, fettered and chained to become a grinder of corn.

On a great fete day, Samson is brought to the Temple of the god Damon, to provide sport for the revelers. Taunted and tripped by midget-jesters, he falls to his knees, while the crowd shout "Let him bow before the great god Damon".

The Temple is a magnificent structure, revealing the Egyptian influence, its pillars and columns, its spectator-platforms, are built around the huge stone figure of the god Damon, from whose belly belches forth flames.

Our Biblical story of Samson and Delilah does not reveal that Delilah visited Samson in the prison, that she begged him to escape with her, that she then discovered that he was blind, that she convinced him of her love for him, her own remorse at her revenge.

Samson realizes that his hair has again grown long in strength upon his head, he bids Delilah not to enter the Temple this day — this day on which the Philistines shall know his strength.

(Continued on Page 37)

*Season's
Greetings*



OSCAR · R · HANSON

· PIONEER FILMS LIMITED ·

REPRESENTING

WILCOX-NEAGLE
PRODUCTIONS

LONDON FILMS
INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

MONOGRAM PICTURES
CORPORATION

ALLIED ARTISTS
PRODUCTIONS INCORPORATED

SAMSON AND DELILAH

(Continued from Page 35)

and he shall be delivered from their bondage.

These scenes give to Delilah a sympathetic complex, and one is apt to excuse the afflictions which she has brought upon Samson, by the revelation of her great love for him, a love which can be his deliverer and his destroyer.

"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned", we whisper, as we wait tensely for the grand finale, despite our Biblical knowledge that such a finale can only mean the destruction of the Temple by Samson, and his own destruction, but in his death, his spiritual redemption.

In this De Mille grand finale, there is again the De Milleian touch and direction. Samson is brought into the Temple in chains, Delilah watches his blind gropings, listens to the mockery of the crowd, sees Samson snared in a net upon the stone floor of the Temple, like a trapped beast, and she leaves the King's side, the latter who has already had doubts of Delilah's revenge motives, for he warns her, that if she leaves his side she cannot come back to him again.

The king's wrestler, previously thrown by Samson, enters with a whip in his hand to revenge himself on the blind and bound Samson, but Delilah seizes the whip from him, and whispers to Samson, that when she strikes him, to seize the end of the whip, and thus she leads him up the altar steps of the Temple and leaves him standing between the two pillars which support the god Damon.

Samson whispers to Delilah to leave the Temple, and praying to his God for a return of his great strength, pushes against the pillars of the Temple to the amusement of the spectators. But suddenly, the pillars are moved from their base, they crack open, and fall into broken blocks of stone, and with their downfall the Temple walls are seen to crack, and the king, the priests of Damon, the people, Samson and Delilah are crushed to death, as the entire Temple collapses.

It is a terrific climax, which builds during a process of tense, slow-torture for the spectators, who are not all destroyed, but gradually annihilated as section after section, wing after wing, crash into the dust; and before the remaining spectators have time to exchange looks of amazement, of bewilderment and horror, as onlookers of destruction, their own destruction is upon them.

After the destruction of the Temple of the god Damon, Saul, a shepherd lad asks Miriam why Samson had to die, and she replies that he is not dead, that his name will live eternally with his people.

There are no bathtubs in this De Mille production of Samson and Delilah, but there is a pool, in a woodland setting, where Samson and Delilah whet their appetite, each for the other, and cool off the flames of their desire.

Throughout the picture there is a magnificence of settings and of backgrounds, of costuming, with meticulous care as to details of furnishings. There are spears, armor, shields, battle axes, and raiment of diverse colours more varied and richly hued than the raiment of King Solomon.

De Mille has given us a weighty production, which, however, is not bound down by its historical trappings, but moves quickly and smoothly upon the wings of its love story, and rolls into action on the iron wheels of its chariots, and the charging steeds of its warriors.

Colour by Technicolour enhances the beauty of its scenes, its investiture, its landscape backgrounds, and humanizes the physical glamour of its stars and players. Of all the spectacles which De Mille has produced, for love-story value, Samson and Delilah is his best, for with very little deviation from fact, De Mille has presented a historical story from the Bible, but one which will have a mass appeal.

Hedy LaMarr as Delilah is seductive. She is symmetrically slim, unburdened by a heaving bosom and undulating fleshy hips. She is no Juno for the brush of Michelangelo or Raphael, no mountainous Venus for the palette of a Rembrandt. She is lithe, well-rounded like a serpent, with the potentialities of a muscular force which can crack open the heart of those who suffer her embrace. This is the Delilah which a Samson would desire, and could love, and Hedy Lamarr reveals more acting ability as Delilah than she has hitherto revealed to me.

Victor Mature as Samson is a perfect selection for the part, and there is in his deliniation of Samson a negation of his own appreciation of a physical perfection, and a sincerity of interpretation.

George Sanders is kindly, and wears well the crown of the Philistines.

while such other names as Angela Lansbury, William Farnum, Henry Wilcoxon embellish a well-knit cast, and manage to emerge as characters, in a production which is almost more than the eye can cover, in its swiftly moving scenes, and its multitude of detail.

Samson and Delilah is an epic which will never age, its story is thousands of years old, its leading characters, Samson and Delilah, are known to young and old. It has seen life upon the stage, it has been the inspiration for grand opera, and now has a rebirth for the screen.

As for Cecil B. De Mille, time has found him audibly sonorous and agile, and despite the celebration of his 68th birthday, his screen art has moved with the changing technique of our screen. Since 1923, De Mille has said "the play's the thing", and with but slight deviation he has adhered to his belief that the purpose of the screen is to please the eye, with massive movement, with spectacular backgrounds, not to wrap a story around the curves of a star.

How well we remember the camera miracle of the parting of the Red Sea, in The Ten Commandments, following which De Mille produced The King of Kings, handling this story with reverence and dignity. The Sign of the Cross, The Crusaders, all gave his religious sense of values, his desire for the sweeping movement of scenes, in which there were multitudes of players and outlet for expression, added dignity to the screen, and brought millions of dollars, if I may be permitted this commercial note, into the box offices of theatres.

You may ask me "Is there no criticism of the Cecil B. De Mille Samson and Delilah picture? To which I reply, "I did not come to bury De Mille, but to praise him." Why should I, like a vain-glorious peacock, spread out my tale of splendour, and then search under such rich and luscious

(Continued on Page 38)



Independent: Merry Christmas!
Circuit: Happy New Year!



Exhibitor: Merry Christmas!
Producer: Happy New Year!

TRADE HEADLINES

Jan. 2nd Will Tabulate Open Sunday Sports Day Vote
Several Ontario Cities, Strong Opposition.

Heard Clyde Gilmour, C.B.C.'s Movie Critic, Roast Several
Pictures Recently. C.B.C. Government Agency Should Be
Neutral Toward Industry Which Supports It With Taxes.
Roasts on Pictures Affect Box-Office Receipts.

Harold Plaff, Well-Known to Film Trade, Buys Marks Theatre,
Oshawa, with Bruce McCloud.

MacLean's Publication Features Movie Story on Year's Best
Pictures — Features Italian Star Contributions Naming
Gigli - Tito Gobbi - Magnani.

Dec. Issue Life Presents DeMille Story with Pictorial
Spread on Samson and Delilah.

Monty Woolley Makes Toronto Hit in "Man Who Came To
Dinner" Royal Alex. Business Big.

Paul Graetz "Devil in Flesh" French-English Titles for
International Cinema - Toronto.

CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS

A city which the religious consider as directly and closely
connected with their religious faith is a Holy City. Jerusalem
is the Holy City of Jews and Christians.

Allahabad is the Holy City of the Indian Mohamedans.

Benares of the Hindus.

Cuzco of the ancient Incas.

Fez of the western Arabs.

Kairwan, near Tunis, contains the Okbar Mosque, in which
is the tomb of the prophet's barber.

Kief, the Jerusalem of Rome, the cradle of Christianity in that
country.

Mecca and Medina are Holy cities of the Mohamedans.

Christians call Palestine the Holy Land, because it was the
site of Christ's Birth, Ministry and Death. Mohamedans call
Mecca the Holy Land, because Mohamed was born there.

The Chinese Buddhists call India the Holy Land, because it
was the native land of Sakya-muni, the Buddha.

The Greeks considered Elis as Holy Land, from the temple of
Olympus Zeus and the sacred festival held there
every four years.

"Christmas comes but once a year" — (Thomas Tusser)

Christmas carols are in commemoration of the song of the
angels to the shepherds of the nativity. Durand tells us that
the bishops with the clergy used to sing carols and
play games on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day transferred from 6th of January to the 25th of
December by Julius I (337-352).

SAMSON AND DELILAH

(Continued from Page 37)

plumage to reveal ugly feet?

I have said that in De Mille's story of Samson and Delilah, I found certain scenes which I had not read in the Judge's chapters in *The Bible*, but De Mille did research work for twelve years, and he may have had the privilege of references, in ancient manuscripts, which I have not had, and for which references there was no place in the Bible story.

You and I, every man and every woman, can, if we search, find flaws even in the weaving of a Gobelin tapestry, but since we are not so intent on picking out the flaws in our own character and behaviour, since the joy in beauty is to inhale its fragrance, its sculptured perfection of form, the harmonious blending of colour and sound, why should we be searchers of imperfection, when we know that Perfection is Eternal, it is evolutionary, and that when all things on earth become perfect, Life will dissolve itself into Death.

Being showmen, you are justified in commanding me to give you no riddles. to stick to show business, and to answer straight forwardly "Is Samson and Delilah the greatest love story since the beginning of man and woman?" To which question I reply, that there is no love story which is closer to our conception of a great love story in the Bible until the love story of Samson and Delilah. "Is it a big production?" you may further inquire, and to that question I can reply in the few words with which you are very familiar, "It is colossal".

Again, you may ask, "Is it well-directed, well acted, well produced?" To which I again reply, "Yes, yes, yes", and for further enlightenment I add, "I have known Cecil B. De Mille for over a quarter of a century, I have been at the studio in Hollywood, and I have had the privilege of being invited to be on a set while De Mille was directing a big scene for one of his pictures. Cecil B. De Mille may have a Barnum complex; being a superb showman, he may give the public some hokum, but he is a master-craftsman, and whatever he does, whatever he says, he is not a phoney, and that is why a few generations of screen fans remember that a De Mille production means, "your money's worth."

—EDITOR

Christmas trees and maypoles are remnants of the Scandinavian Ash, called Yggdrasil, the Tree of Time, whose roots penetrate to Heaven, Niffheim and Ginnungagap (The Gap of Gaps). In Ginnungagap the frost giants dwell, in Niffheim is the great serpent, Nidhogg; and, under this root, is Helheim, the home of the dead.

THE TITLE? — DOES IT MATTER?



This is Lana Morris. The best wishes are merely a cover-up for the fact that she is featured in the casts of two important new pictures, **THE GAY LADY** and **CHILTERN HUNDREDS**.

J. ARTHUR RANK Presents **THE GAY LADY**. (Spectacle with Music), starring Jean Kent and James Donald with Hugh Sinclair, Lana Morris, Andrew Crawford, Bill Owen. Based on the best-selling novel and pocket book of the dancing Duchess, "Trottie True," Two Cities Film. Eagle-Lion Release.

J. ARTHUR RANK Presents **CHILTERN HUNDREDS**. (Comedy) with the star of the current New York stage version, A. E. Matthews, Cecil Parker, David Tomlinson and Lana Morris. Based on the stage success. (U.S. film title, *Beecham the Great*; U.S. stage title, *Yes M'Lord*). Two Cities Film. Eagle-Lion Release.

BOOK THEM NOW FROM EAGLE-LION

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

SUZANNE CLOUTIER, young daughter of the King's Printer and Mrs. Edmond Cloutier of Ottawa is in Italy completing her role of Desdemona opposite Orson Welles in the latter's screen production of Shakespeare's "Othello". This is another step in the ladder of success which the young actress began a little over three years ago. At that time she gave up the life of a socialite to become a model in New York, then on to Hollywood to appear in "Temptation" with Merle Oberon. Miss Cloutier has been in France during the past year as a member of La Comedie de St. Etienne, a stock company subsidized by the French Government to bring the theatre to large centres other than Paris. Before joining Orson Welles' unit in Venice, she played the leading role in "The Kingdom of Heaven" for the famed French film producer, Julien Duvivier.

* * *

With Christmas just around the corner, Ottawa movie theatres are gradually taking on that gay look which comes but once a year. While hydro power regulations have restricted the use of electrical interior illuminations, and outside displays, theatre managers and staffs are doing wonders in colorful lobby decorations made of red ribbons, evergreens, holly and tinsel.

* * *

A move that is greatly appreciated by a public now in the throes of Christmas shopping was the decision of manager Gord. Beavis to throw open the beautifully appointed tearoom of the Odeon Theatre without cover or entry charges. Thousands of afternoon shoppers are taking advantage of the lounge's restful atmosphere, and it is reasonable to believe that many of them will become patrons of the Odeon's current evening shows.

* * *

Relatives and close friends of Paul Dupuis, young Montreal and Hull actor now under contract with the J. Arthur Rank Organization, were guests of manager Gord. Beavis for a private screening of "Passport to Pimlico" at the Odeon Theatre. Dupuis plays the romantic lead (Duke of Burgundy) opposite Barbara Murray in this novel comedy from the Old Country.

* * *

Robert (Bob) Martin, who was with Odeon Theatres since its inception up to a few years ago, and was well-known in the capital city as manager of the Glebe and Roxy Theatres, is now a department manager in one of our largest retail stores. We spied Bob in his new capacity while doing our Christmas window-shopping early one day last week.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

IT has rained in British Columbia for the past seven days and damage to railroads, highways and other transportation systems were at a stand still thru wash-outs, many bridges being washed away. West Vancouver across the inlet was isolated when the Capilano River bridge collapsed. It was the only road to and from Vancouver and thousands of folks were stranded over the weekend until the Army built a bailey bridge across the river. A stop gap was a ferry service which rushed into service did a good job getting folks across the inlet after being stranded for 24 hours.

* * *

Two more members of the Vancouver Branch of Canadian Picture Pioneers died here; Bob Scott, former film exchange and theatre manager, who ran the Lyric Theatre before F.P. took it over and renamed it the International-Cinema, died age 65. Joe Errington, Vancouver's oldest projectionist, who was in show business since 1903, died at a dance hall. Errington was age 62. CPP was well represented at both funerals.

* * *

Earl Barlow assistant manager of the International - Cinema married June Martinso of Vancouver . . . Martha Kawa, contract clerk at Empire - Universal, resigned and left for her home in innipeg. He is succeeded by Ray Grayson, former poster boy. . . Howard Fletcher, veteran projectionist of the Studio Theatre, is in St. Pauls hospital for an operation . . . Al Jenkins of the Plaza and his wife are expecting a visit from the stork any day now . . . Norman Duncan, manager of the Cinema, attended the Golden anniversary of his parents this week in Vancouver . . . It was "old home" week for two Vancouver stars who appeared at the Cinema in the "Oklahoma" stage show; they are Tish McLeod, daughter of Roy McLeod, manager of the Vogue, and Josephine Andrews, who joined "Oklahoma" here a year ago.

* * *

Film Exchange union B-71 Iatse backshop employees and the Distributors will go before a conciliation Board shortly. The employees are asking a 20 per cent hike in wages and improved working conditions. Jimmy Davie, RKO manager, is Distributor's representative, and Bob Foster of the Orpheum represents the Employees. Percy Gomery was appointed chairman of the board by the B.C. Government to settle the dispute.

Another drive-in theatre with a 300 car capacity is planned for Cloverdale, 30 miles from Vancouver in the Fraser Valley district.

* * *

Odeon Theatres announced a new first run set-up here, adding the Hastings and the Plaza to its showcase houses and relegating the Paradise to second run and revival policy. The chain also announced that previews held in the Dunbar on Mondays will hereafter be held at the suburban Park on Wednesday. The Odeon-Lonsdale in North Vancouver have closed down the outdated house which needed rebuilding, but costs of material and labor being so high the house will be closed indefinitely. The circuit have the only other theatre in North Vancouver, the Odeon, which they say should be able to handle the business at present. The Odeon seats 734.

* * *

The Odeon Theatre Managers Association of B.C. elected the following officers for 1950: President, Al Mitchell, Paradise; Vice-president, es Young, Odeon, New Westminster; Secretary, Gerry Sutherland, Park Theatre, Vancouver.

George Mitchell is the new assistant to Charlie Doctor at the Capitol succeeding Earl Barlow, now at the International-Cinema . . . Two former theatre cashiers, Mary Ruddick and Mary Crompton, are now in charge of road show ticket sales for Hilker attractions at Kelly Music Store here. Lynn Magoffin, Paradise usherette, married Clifton Kilkenny of the U.S.A. Navy who is stationed in Seattle . . . Bill Forward of General Theatre Supply Co. Ltd. held a house warming at his new location on local film row; they were formerly in the Dominion Theatre Building downtown. Amusement business was well represented and a good time was had by all. Out of town folks exhibitors there were Harold arren of Port Alberni Theatres; Washington Thorne of Steva, Steveston; Myron McLeod, Patricia Theatre, Powell River; and Paul Gauthier, Rex Quesnel . . . The boys also took in the Famous Players Managers Ball held at the Commodore Night Club Sunday. It was as per usual the high-light of the season with 900 show folks and their friends in attendance . . . Pat Carson of the Studio staff resigned and will join her family in Florida . . . Syd Freedman, assistant to Mickey Goldin of the Studio Theatre, claims he had the best looking girl at the Famous Player Ball. The lovely lady was Janet Hollander who was really something to look at.

Compliments of the Season

and our

Very Best Wishes

to our

Friends

and

Associates



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MONTREAL

A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to
All our Friends in the Industry



FROM THE
Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Which Brings You All The News In Easy To Digest Form

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Editor & Publisher

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Assistant Editor

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And Our Correspondents Across Canada

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of the Film Trade in Canada

The Season's Greetings

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

FOLLOWING a directive from the annual meeting of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario on the question of bingo competition, a survey has been taken among the exhibitors throughout the Province for the gathering of facts to be placed before the government authorities.

All Ontario theatres have been circularized and Arch H. Jolley, executive secretary, reported that his office in Toronto has been flooded by the replies to the questionnaire on where, how and when bingo games or lotteries are being conducted in each locality. The question was also asked whether or not bingo stunts are being broadcast by radio stations and how often.

"Bingo is certainly running rampant throughout the Province," was the comment from Jolley after checking many of the filled-in forms from theatre managers. The games are contrary to the Lotteries Act, according to an authoritative opinion.

* * *

"Pagliacci" held up nicely for its second week at the King Theatre, Toronto. With the Queen City thinking of ballet because of the Sadler's Wells engagement at the Royal Alexandra, "The Red Shoes" was brought back to the Hyland Theatre where the run was extended to a second week. Meanwhile "The Informer", as a revival, was good for a third week at the Towne Cinema.

* * *

No less than 11 features were graded "adult entertainment" during the month of November by the Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors, several of the pictures being re-issues, such as "Dillinger" and "Lady of Burlesque". The list also includes: "The Reckless Moment", "The Story of Molly", "Thieves' Highway", "White Heat", "The Moose", "The Guest in the House", "Forgotten Women", "Kind Hearts and Coronets" and "Beyond the Forest".

* * *

While cooking schools, with valuable prizes attached, were conducted in conjunction with matinee performances at the Palace Theatre, St. Catharines, and the Danforth in Toronto, the same type of program ran into a snag when it was staged at the Little Theatre in Ottawa.

* * *

Conjecture over the use of the Famous Players' Victoria Theatre in Toronto as a new vaudeville centre after extensive remodelling was dispelled when announcement was made that the house, closed since last June, was being re-opened with the Canadian premiere of "Samson and Delilah" for an unlimited engagement.

Projectionist Charles White suffered a burned hand in a booth fire during a performance of "Canon City" at the Centre Theatre on Dundas Street West, Toronto. Manager Howard Eidlitz cleared the theatre without incident but the patrons returned a half hour later.

* * *

Loew's Uptown is going ahead with its combination policy, with vaudeville to be featured periodically, approximately every fourth week according to present plans. The new policy will get under way Jan. 9, necessitating a change of programs on Mondays. Manager Stan Gosnell says there will be 12 men in the pit.

* * *

Manager Al Hartshorn of the Regent Theatre, Oshawa, received a nice compliment from District Manager Jack Arthur after winning the award for the best merchandising promotion on the Nestle's chocolate products. J. J. Fitzgibbons, Jr., head of the Theatre Confections, said that competition was very keen and Hartshorn was a real winner.

* * *

Quentin McLean has been absent for many weeks as the featured organist at Shea's Theatre, a matter that is apparently distressing to Manager Fred Trebilcock. Differences with the musicians' union are said to be the cause of the dropping of the organ interlude.

About one year ago, Al Bollington also withdrew as guest organist at the Odeon-Toronto Theatre after coming from England for the purpose. Union difficulties were blamed for this situation, too.

* * *

Manager James Hardiman of the London Odeon featured a gift performance of the Saturday morning movie club when each juvenile was admitted on presentation of a new or old toy. A complete film program was screened and the toys are being distributed among the needy children of the city.

* * *

At last Manager Howard Elliott of the Fairlawn in Toronto's North End gets a break in booking arrangements. The theatre has been linked with the main Odeon on Carlton Street for simultaneous program presentations. The dual policy was started with the British picture, "The Hidden Room".

Some time ago the Fairlawn and Danforth Theatres were combined in bookings but the Danforth is now more or less associated with the Humber.



George Peters, Vice-President of Odeon, resigned from this position at the recent Director's meeting, upon the return, after a long illness, of the Hon. Earl Lawson, President of Odeon Theatres. Mr. Peters has announced that he will take a position outside of the film industry when his resignation becomes effective on February 1st.

* * *

Sam Shapero has joined Selznick-Alliance at their head office in Toronto in the booking department . . . also, Bill Walkie, formerly with Famous Players booking department, has left to go to the Toronto Paramount exchange.

* * *

When John Davis of London, England, was in Toronto at the time when J. Arthur Rank was telling about his financial woes, it was brought out that the independently-operated Odeon theatre interest in Canada was at a highly satisfactory level.

The one public issue of Odeon Limited, consisting of \$2,500,000 4¼ per cent first mortgage bonds issued early in 1949, had already been reduced by \$125,000 through the sinking-fund arrangement.

Odeon Limited is the subsidiary of Odeon Theatres (Canada) Limited which operates 10 theatres in Ontario, including five at Toronto. The others are at London, Brantford, Fort William, Port Arthur and Ottawa.

* * *

"Gone With the Wind" went into the Capitol at Hamilton as the pre-Christmas attraction, with three showings each day and four on Saturday. Prices for the revival presentation ranged from 30c to 60c.

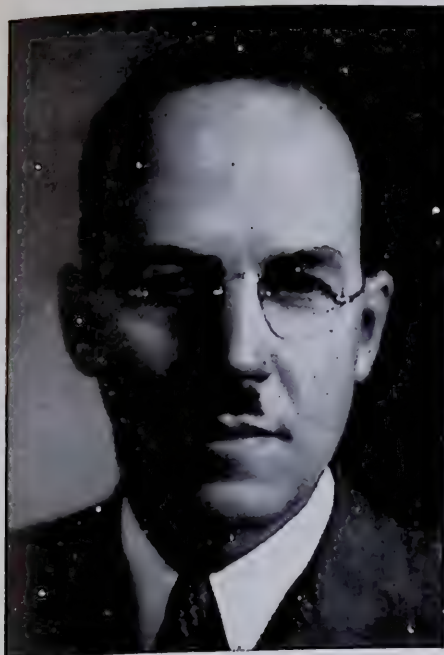
* * *

Astral Films Limited has been able to secure Canadian distribution on "The Lady Vanishes" for re-release. A high price was reportedly paid for the Alfred Hitchcock production, starring Margaret Lockwood, which first caused a stir in the Dominion in 1938.

Izzy Allen has now added "The Lady Vanishes" to "Not Wanted" and "Lost Boundaries" which are doing big business.



AMONG THOSE PRESENT



RUBE BOLSTAD



J. J. FITZGIBBONS



MAURICE STEIN



BEN GELDSALER

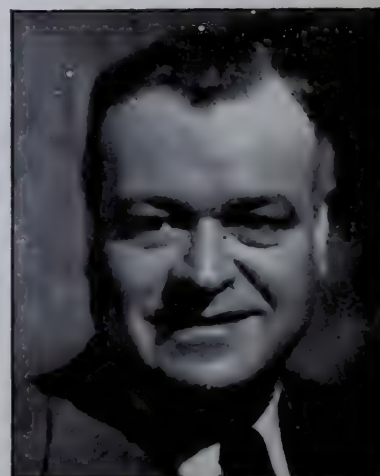
These "Famous-Playersmen" are so often in the pages of our Digest that names and dates are superfluous. Who in this industry has to be introduced to "Fitz", to "Rube" Bolstad, "Larry" Bearg or Maurice Stein? Wherever there is a job to be done — War Services, Canadian Picture Pioneers, Variety Club — these men are there Johnny-on-the-spot. Throughout the pages of this special Christmas issue, we will present a number of familiar names and faces in the Canadian moving picture industry, but none will be more familiar, certainly, than the Toronto Famous Players contingent who are shown here.



LARRY BEARG



JACK ARTHUR



JAMES NAIRN



ARTHUR GOTTLIEB

Film Laboratories and Audio Pictures find their destiny in the hands of the two gentlemen pictured here. Engaged for many years in the business of film printing, Mr. Gottlieb is most famed in Canada for his hospitality, both at his farm at Pickering, Ont. and at "The Hinks", to say nothing of the famed New Year's parties. Mr. Teisler, after considerable production experience in New York and Hollywood and a sojourn with the U.S.



HANS TEISLER

navy (note the uniform in our war-time cut) came to Canada to head production at Audio films, under Mr. Gottlieb. Since then, Audio has been turning out commercial films almost as fast as the Film Lab. has been turning out prints. The next step is TV shorts, a few of which have been made at Audio already . . . but when they really get going, watch for the Audio sign on your television set.



LEO DEVANEY

Leo Devaney certainly needs no introduction to the Canadian film industry. A Canadian Picture Pioneer, he started in at Shea's Theatre, Toronto, in 1912, he became associated with Fox Films and, in 1918, became branch manager for this company. After jaunting around the world to South Africa, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati, and New York, Mr. Devaney returned to Toronto in 1929 as General Manager for RKO theatres in Canada and in 1932 became General Manager for RKO pictures here, a post in which he has remained.

On this festive occasion it is our
desire to wish all our
customer friends a
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
ALL THE BEST FOR 1950



PERKINS
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1949 Digest Showmanship Contest Winners



GEORGE GANETAKOS

Born Durali Greece, April 1st, 1879, George Ganetakos came to Montreal in 1900 and was married on the 5th of May, 1905. Has one son, John G. Ganetakos, and one daughter, Anne Marie Giles, and three grandchildren.

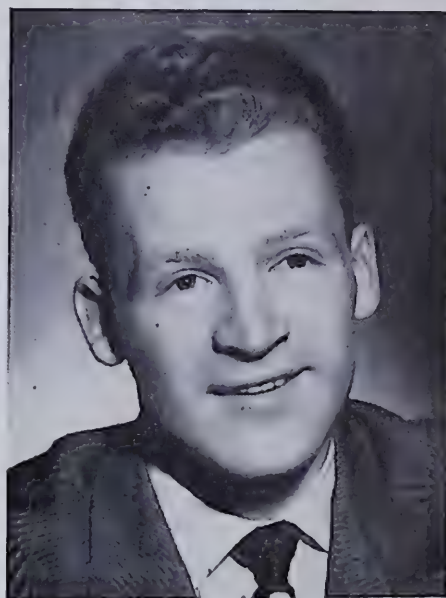
Mr. Ganetakos started in Moving Picture Business in the Moulin Rouge theatre corner of Amherst and St. Catherine Streets, Montreal, operated under the name Canadian Amusements Ltd., in the year 1910. Extended operations in 1912 under the name Independent Amusements Ltd., and further extended in 1915 to United Amusements Ltd. Through amalgamation this Company became known in 1924 as United Amusement Corporation Limited. He started as Managing-Director in 1910 and still holds that office, also elected President of United Amusement Corporation Limited in 1947.

Mr. Ganetakos was very active during the last war as Chairman of the Greek War Relief Fund of Canada, and for his service in this work was awarded the Silver Medal of the Greek Red Cross and from the King of Greece the Golden Cross of the Greek Order of Phoenix. He was also decorated by the City of Mesologion, Greece.

He is still active and at the age of seventy manages the operation of about forty theatres in the Province of Quebec.



JIM McDONOUGH



DON WATTS



MEL JOLLEY



NATHAN ROTHSTEIN

Nathan Rothstein born 66 years ago, started in the Theatre business in the town of Mossbank in the year 1920. Six months following the opening of the theatre at Mossbank he purchased the Olympia Theatre in Assiniboia, Sask., and a year later he purchased the Arlington Theatre in Winnipeg, Man.

A few years later he started building the Rose and Plaza Theatres in Winnipeg. While these theatres were under construction he joined partnership with Jack Miles and operated a seven house circuit in Winnipeg. After two years he sold his interests in the Winnipeg Circuit to Jack Miles, keeping his Saskatchewan theatres, later adding the Roxy in Saskatoon, Roxy and Princess in Yorkton, Roxy in Wilkie, Roxy in Goldfields, Roxy in Selkirk, Man., and the Roxy in Beardmore, Ont. He recently added the Garry in Selkirk, Man.

He is President of Rothstein Theatres Ltd., and during the past five years he has been devoting most of his time to the hotel business, purchasing the Marlborough and St. Charles Hotels in Winnipeg, and in 1948 building the Barry Hotel in Saskatoon, Sask. Mr. Nathan Rothstein has left the physical operation of the theatres in the hands of his son, Dave, who is Vice-President.

It has been just announced Mr. Nathan Rothstein has been re-elected President of Motion Picture Pioneers, Winnipeg Branch, for his second term.



Season's Greetings

AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR
CONTINUED SUCCESS TO
"RAY LEWIS"
AND THE "DIGEST"



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TO OUR MANY FRIENDS
IN THE INDUSTRY



B & F THEATRES
SAM BLOOM - SAM FINE
And all the Boys

"MOM AND DAD"

Wishes You All The
SEASON'S GREETINGS



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General Manager

SEASON'S GREETINGS

•
HAROLD KAY

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To All My Friends
In The Industry
J. L. SMITH

SEASON'S GREETINGS
To All My Friends
•

CHARLES DENTLEBECK



BEST WISHES FOR
CHRISTMAS AND
THE NEW YEAR
from

**Photo Engravers and
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CHARLES and KEN
CASHMAN



Season's Greetings

AND BEST WISHES FOR 1950

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LIMITED

TORONTO

B. E. NORRISH M. Sc. M.E.I.C. PRESIDENT & MANAGING DIRECTOR

**B. C. SALAMIS**

Basil Salamis came as a young man to Canada, after graduating from Commercial Academy and Languages College in the Island of Samos, Greece. In 1921 he graduated from McGill University in Electrical Engineering, is a member of the Professional Engineers of Quebec, practised his profession up until 1932 when he entered, by accident, into the moving picture business, operating a few small theatres.

For many years he has been a member of the Executive of the Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries and during the war was an honorary member of the Advisory Council of the Motion Picture Industry Price Control Board.

Presently he is representing the Quebec Allied as a member of the Central Council of the All Industry Motion Picture Association of Canada.

For the past nine years he has donated most of his time for Canadian relief to the war devastated countries in Europe and his native land, Greece, as National Secretary of the Greek War Relief Fund of Canada; has been decorated by the Greek Government with the high decoration of the Order of Phoenix, and also has been honoured by being appointed as representative of the Greek Red Cross in Canada; is a member of the Executive of the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO, an organization helping in the rehabilitation of schools and Universities through scholarships, by assisting with the sending of scientific books and other help of a similar type; a member of the Executive of the Canadian United Allied Relief Fund, a Government sponsored organization which has sent Canadian voluntary relief to Europe during the last five years consisting of money and

**B. E. NORRISH**

B. E. "Ben" Norrish, President and Managing Director of Associated Screen News Limited, Montreal, was born at Walkerton, Ont., in 1885.

He attended public and high schools in Walkerton, and enrolled in the Engineering class of '04 at Queen's University, Kingston. He received his B.Sc. on graduation, and his degree of Master of Science on a post-graduate course.

On leaving Queen's, he was appointed Administrative Engineer with the Water Power branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, until 1917, when he organized the first motion picture bureau for the Department of Trade & Commerce.

Ben severed his Government connections in 1920 to form Associated Screen News, assuming the post of Manager. In 1926, he was named Managing Director, and was appointed President and Managing Director fourteen years later.

He is a member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Advertising and Sales Executives Club of Montreal, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

clothing to the value of over 38 million dollars.

Last year he was a member of a Canadian mission sent to the various European capitals by the Canadian Government to investigate and report on Canadian relief to Europe, and has always been a willing worker for the benefit of the Motion Picture Industry of Canada.

**W. J. SINGLETON**

W. J. "Bill" Singleton, General Manager of Associated Screen News Limited, Montreal, first saw the light of day in Montreal at the turn of the century.

Educated in metropolitan public and high schools, Bill enlisted for active service with the Royal Air Force on reaching the ripe old age of eighteen. He was demobilized on the cessation of hostilities with the rank of Lieutenant.

The Canadian motion picture industry at that time was but a newling infant, but Bill recognized its inherent possibilities, and he joined the staff of Famous Players Film Services (later known as Columbia Pictures) in 1922. A year later he became connected with the sales department of Associated Screen News, was named Sales Manager five years later, and was appointed to his present post in 1948.

He is a member and past director of the Advertising and Sales Club of Montreal; president of the Canadian Picture Pioneers; a Barker of the Toronto Variety Club; and is a member of the National Publicity Committee, Canadian Red Cross Society.

Santa Claus or Santa Klaus is a corrupt conversion of St. Nicholas the patron Saint of children. The vigil of his feast is still held in some places, but generally his name is now associated with Christmas - tide. The old custom was for someone on December 5th to put on the costume of a bishop and to distribute small gifts to "good children". St. Nicholas Day is December 6th. The Dutch Kriss Kringle.

Season's Greetings



ARCH. H. JOLLEY
Executive Secretary

**MOTION PICTURE THEATRES
ASSOCIATION
OF ONTARIO**

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AND A SPECIAL WISH FOR
A HAPPY AND
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TO ALL INDEPENDENT THEATRE OWNERS
IN ONTARIO



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BEN FREEDMAN
PRESIDENT

HARRY ROMBERG
SECRETARY

Season's Greetings

TO ALL OUR
FRIENDS
IN THE TRADE



THEATRE HOLDING CORPORATION



Rather than present individual portraits, we give you the UA boys in toto as photographed at their recent sales convention in Chicago. George Heiber (left centre), the Montreal Branch Manager, Charles Chaplin (right centre), and Sam Kunitsky (left of Heiber), St. John Branch manager, aside from all being brothers-in-law, are all UA men from beginning to end. None of the three has ever worked for a company other than UA since they entered the film business. Charlie

Chaplin, beginning in Toronto, moved later to Saint John and Montreal as Branch Manager and eventually returned to his home ground to become Canadian General Sales Manager. Buster Radus, who is sitting beside Sam Kunitsky, joined UA as Calgary manager after several years with RKO in Toronto. Harry Wolfe is well-known in the west, having been with RKO in Winnipeg for many years prior to moving to Vancouver as UA branch manager there. Abe Feinstein

is also a Winnipegger, having come to the company from Monogram. Doug Rosen is a mere baby with the company, in comparison, this year being his seventh as a UA man. Since moving to Toronto from Winnipeg to become Ontario branch manager, he has become well-known in circles of community service, having been active in Welfare, the UJA, Variety, and many other organizations. On the side, he competes with Hye Bossin for the Stag M.C. championship.

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Calgary

Compliments of the Season from The Alberta Theatres Association

**A. J. MASON**

When asked for an up-to-date sketch of himself, Archie Mason replied with a so-sorry, no-time, maybe-later letter. In lieu of this, the Digest will supply the answer of how come Mr. Mason is so busy right now. We understand and, after reading the list, you will, too:

- Newly-elected President of the Exhibitors' Associations of Canada.
- President of the Maritime Allied Exhibitors' Association.
- Member of Parliament.
- Vice-President of the CMPIC.
- Convenor of the Legislative Committee of the CMPIC, etc., etc., etc.

**GORDON LIGHTSTONE**

Gordon Lightstone is a very modest man. Not only does he not like to have his picture taken (we had to sneak our Digest cut out of a group photograph) but, looking back to the Digest of January 8th, 1941, when he guested on Ray Presents, we find that he spent the entire column talking about his pictures, and not so much as a sentence about himself. To date, he hasn't changed and so all we could dig out of him for this brief biography is that the Paramount product for 1950 will surpass any year's product yet. However, this year he has reached the eventful 25 to be a pioneer.

★

**HAROLD VANCE**

Harold Vance has once before this year been the subject of a lengthy biography in the Digest (see Ray Presents, April 30th). With a varied career of forty years in the entertainment business that extends through the movies and the legitimate theatre to being, at one time, president of the Ontario Athletic Association, Harold is best known in Quebec City (where he manages the Victoria, Classic and Cambrai) as a public-relations ace. Ask any publicity man and they will tell you that, when it comes to playing a picture in Quebec, Harold Vance can get you any kind of co-operation and as much of it, from as many people, as you want. A list of his community affiliations would fill this column and a list of the many friends he has made in forty years in the industry would fill this book.

**ROY MILLER**

Roy Miller is very much in the news of late. Manager of the Lincoln Theatre and prominent business figure at St. Catharines, he has been elected a director of the Chamber of Commerce in the Garden City. For the past year he has been chairman of the retail section of the organization. Miller, of course, is president of the MPTA of Ontario, as well.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To All The Folks
in the
Motion Picture Industry

★

PRESIDENT

A. J. MASON
Springhill, N.S.

SECRETARY

G. A. WALTERS
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

**Maritime Allied
Exhibitors Association**

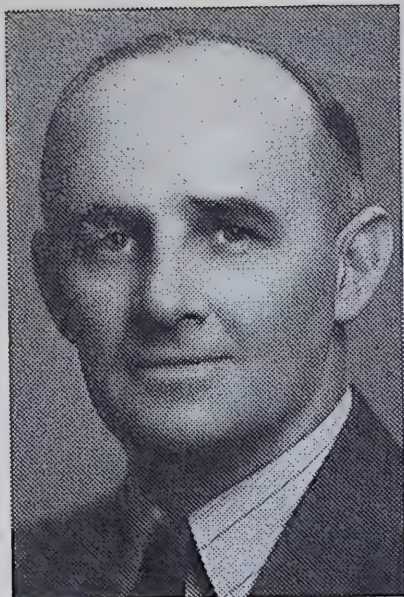
SEASON'S GREETINGS

To All The Folks
in the
Motion Picture Industry

★

**Manitoba Motion Picture
Exhibitors Association**

**300 New Hargrave Building
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

**ARCH JOLLEY**

Born in Winnipeg, educated at Ridley College, an architect by profession, "Arch" Jolley has had a long and varied career in and out of show business. For many years in Montreal, he was engaged in putting on fairs and exhibitions. He was for 8 years Vice-President of the George S. May Company in Canada. But, since his arrival at the Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association of Ontario as Executive-Secretary, he has made his mark spectacularly as a public speaker.

Wherever there are people in Ontario who want to know about the movies, Arch Jolley is there to tell them and tell them as they should be told.

Aside from his position with the MPEAO, Mr. Jolley is Secretary-Treasurer of the National Committee of Motion Picture Exhibitors' Associations of Canada and has recently been appointed Secretary of the CMPIC.

**CHARLES DENTLEBECK**

Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Charles Dentlebeck is a Canadian by adoption, having spent the entirety of his business career in this country. He was first manager of the old Avenue Theatre, Toronto, and, from there went to the College Playhouse when it opened. After some years as a projectionist in Toronto, Mr. Dentlebeck was appointed Supervisor of Projection for Famous Players in 1918. With the closing of the Regent Theatre, he left the booth for good, having since devoted his time to the supervision of projection in Famous theatres.

Incidentally, Charles Dentlebeck was responsible for the installation of sound equipment, when it first came in, in all Famous Players Theatres and, after 31 years with the company, remains so completely up to date on all phases of theatre equipment that he is called upon regularly to address various groups on the subjects of sound and projection and lately, of course, drive-in equipment.

**H. J. BOOTH**

It is impossible to make a complete yet brief outline of the career of J. Howard Boothe, popular and able Vancouver District head. Howard was born in Thorold, Ontario, first venturing West in 1905, entering the theatre business in Winnipeg as partner and builder of the Avenue Theatre, which was subsequently sold to the Allen circuit. During Mr. Boothe's sojourn in the Winnipeg Film World, he was one of the organizers of the first Film Board of Trade in the Dominion. Howard was next identified in the motion picture business as branch manager of the Gaumont Company in Winnipeg, later becoming a district manager, supervising their five Western Canadian Branches. The Gaumont Company was subsequently taken over by Mutual Films (Charlie Chaplin) and Howard Boothe acted in the same capacity for that company. While with Mutual Films in Winnipeg, Howard handled supplies of projection machines and theatre accessories under the trade name of "Mutual and Boothe", from whom a great many of the old time operators purchased their equipment.

Howard acquired the Winnipeg Arlington Theatre, later disposing of it to his partner, Gary Peebles. Howard first established himself in Vancouver in 1918, when he started the Skrenadz Advertising Service, and in the early 30's he sold out his interest to Harry Rosenbaum. It was then that Mr. Boothe returned to the theatre business with his Dunbar Theatre, which he built. Mr. Boothe retained ownership of the Dunbar until 1941 when he sold the theatre to Mr. Paul Nathanson, with whom he became associated, and was responsible for acquiring a considerable number of the British Columbia Theatres which now make up the Odeon Theatres of Canada in that province. When the Odeon circuit was organized in Vancouver, Howard Boothe was assistant to Mr. Dave Griesdorf, whom he succeeded in the spring of 1945.

WITH EVERY GOOD WISH
FOR A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

AND A

PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



NATIONAL BOOKING COMPANY

20 Carlton Street

Toronto



ARCHIE LAURIE

Although, when still in knee-pants Archie Laurie was an usher at the old Vitascope Theatre in Montreal, he considers that his career in showbusiness really began at the Midway Theatre in Montreal, where he was in charge of doing special exploitation fronts, and at which time he wrote a weekly column on this vocation for several trade journals among them, THE CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST.

From then on, the majority of his time was spent with one or another of the numerous Nathanson enterprises. Originally having joined the Nathanson organization as the manager of the Strand, Ottawa, he came down to Toronto to open the Alhambra Theatre and later proceeded to the head office of the company, Paramount Theatres (which is now known as Famous Players), in a booking and supervisory capacity.

After a term as Assistant to N. L. Nathanson, Archie suddenly made up his mind to get out of exhibition and into distribution. He went over to Specialty Film Imports which, at that time, was distributing Harold Lloyd and Pearl White epics. When Mr. Nathanson took over this company and changed its name to Regal Films, Archie stayed on with the new company and remained with them for 10 years, most of which time he spent handling MGM product.

Subsequently, he went over to Empire Films (also owned by Mr. Nathanson) and then became, in rapid succession, President and General Sales Manager for the new Esquire Films (a company which Mr. Nathanson set up especially to handle his newly-acquired British films), Canadian Sales Manager for Republic Pictures (when Mr. Nathanson acquired the Republic franchise for distribution through Empire-Universal); and finally, organizer and first General Sales



THE HON. EARL LAWSON

The Hon. J. Earl Lawson, P.C., K.C., of Toronto, is president of the several J. Arthur Rank companies in Canada, the most important and best-known being the coast to coast Odeon theatre circuit, of which he is active managing Director as well as President. Mr. Lawson's present position as head of these theatrical enterprises culminates many years of close association with the motion picture industry. Prior to appointment to his present position in 1947, Mr. Lawson was on the Board of Directors of Odeon Theatres in Canada, from its inception in 1941.

Mr. Lawson has had an active career not only in the legal profession, but in politics, three times being elected to parliament, serving as Minister of National Revenue, from which post he retired in 1935 and from parliament in 1940. Since that time, he has been active not only in law and business but in many community efforts.

Mr. Lawson's long association with the motion picture industry is indicated by his membership in the Canadian Picture Pioneers, of which he is President.

Manager of Eagle-Lion Films of Canada which was set up to distribute J. Arthur Rank pictures here in 1945.

In between all this organizing, Mr. Laurie seems to have gotten organized himself for, back in 1944, after being a confirmed bachelor, he got married. (Hye Bossin and Charlie Mavity wept.)

Resigning from his Eagle-Lion position in 1947, Mr. Laurie became Director of Public Relations and Publicity for Odeon of Canada Ltd. in which capacity he has opened 15 new Odeon theatres to date — and wherever there are new ones being built in the future, Archie Laurie will be on hand to give them the proper send-off.



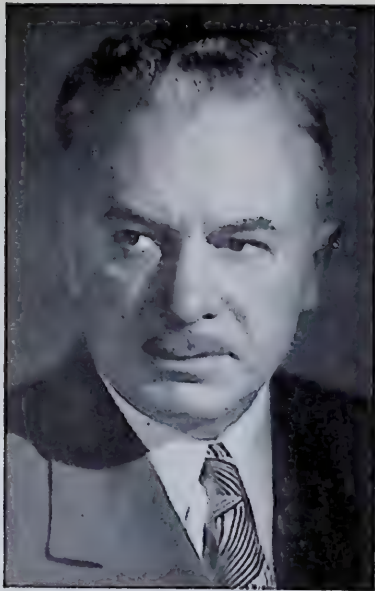
DAVID GREISDORF

The new General Manager for Odeon Theatres, although youthful in appearance, is old in the service of this industry. From UA branch manager at Winnipeg to Eastern Representative for James Roosevelt, to Los Angeles for UA, back to Canada as B.C. District Manager for Odeon, and then to President of International Film Distributors — that's quite a ride around the film circuit. Both Mrs. Griesdorf and his many Toronto friends hope that, now, Dave is settled in the film capitol for a good long stay.



JAMES COWAN

James Cowan (who does not like to have his picture taken — thus, no picture) was born in Shakespeare, Ont. (a fitting birth-place for a future publicist). While at the University of Toronto, he founded "The Goblin" together with some other students and made such a success of it that, later, the boys sold it for a handsome profit — while still in school. Upon leaving university, Jimmie became an editor on the Star Weekly, having the distinction of being probably one of the youngest editors in captivity (age 21). Later, he branched out to head Public Relations and Editorial Services Ltd. in which capacity he came by the J. Arthur Rank account when the British mogul first moved into Canada. Finding himself working on the Rank account night and day anyway, Jimmie reluctantly left PR and ES, which was his baby, and became Personal Representative for J. Arthur Rank in Canada. As such, he presides now on the top floor of the Odeon Building in Toronto — a welcome and familiar part of the Canadian movie scene.

**CLARE APPEL**

"Appel, the Bashful Baritone" — that's what Clare Appel used to be known as when he first entered show-business. At that time, he was engaged to sing illustrated songs at the old Gem Theatre, Brantford. Progressing to dizzying heights in the vocal world, Clare eventually expanded his itinerary to include all of Ontario; then, at the peak of his fame, he went into exhibition. Another Tito Gobbi was lost to the world when Clare joined the Allen organization at Brandon, Manitoba (Ray Lewis still bewails the fact.) When the Allens opened their first big eastern theatre, in Brantford, Ontario, Clare came back east to manage the house. For some years, he supervised the Allens' western Ontario theatres, progressing from there to Advertising Director and, from there, to Famous Players. In 1941, he joined the newly-formed Odeon organization as Director of Advertising and was subsequently promoted to Eastern Divisional Manager in 1945. Just goes to show, you can never tell what will happen to a baritone.



The holly or holy-tree is called Christ's Thorn in Germany and Scandinavia from its use in church decorations and its putting forth of berries about Christmas time. The early Christians gave an emblematic turn to the custom, referring to "the righteous branch" and justifying the custom from Chapter IX Isaiah, verse 13 — "*The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary*".

**ALF PERRY**

The list of Alf Perry's company affiliations in the film industry reads like a survey of the business by the Encyclopedia Britannica rather than like the career of one man. Universal, Exhibitor's Distributing Corporation, Regal Films, Warner Brothers etc., etc. Mr. Perry has, as the saying goes, really been around. Upon the amalgamation which established Empire-Universal, Mr. Perry assumed the General-Managership and is today President and General Manager of that company.

**LARRY GRABURN**

Although originally a Torontonians, Larry Graburn started in showbusiness in Calgary, having been educated in Calgary and in Europe. From Calgary, he took a royal tour of Famous Players Theatres which included the Met, Regina; the Capitol, Winnipeg; the Orpheum, Winnipeg; the Capitol, Regina and the Capitol, Halifax. Eventually he landed up at the Mecca of all these — Famous Players head office in Toronto.

After spending 4 years in the Air Force, two and a half of them overseas, he returned to Canada and joined Odeon in January of 1946, as Director of Advertising.

**SAM GLAZIER**

One of the remarkably few native Torontonians in the Toronto film world, Sam Glazier is a local boy and proud of it. He is a member of the Motion Picture Pioneers, having entered the business 28 years ago on the staff on the long-since defunct Exhibitor's Distributing Corporation. From there, Sam went to the old Pantages Theatre and, subsequently, he joined the William Fox organization. When they amalgamated with 20th-Century to form 20th-Century Fox, Sam stayed with the company and has been with them since — for 22 years, as a matter of fact. Despite the fact that he is a publicity man during most of his waking hours, Sam has not been too busy during those years, to become the father of three daughters, the eldest of whom was recently married. To quote Mr. Glazier himself, "That makes one down and two to go" — Play Ball!

**TOM DOWBIGGAN**

(brief but succinct self-portrait)
MANAGER
PARAMOUNT FILM SERVICE
LIMITED
MONTREAL.
TWENTY-NINE (29) YEARS
WITH PARAMOUNT
BEFORE THAT DOESN'T
COUNT.

**HARRY BERCOVICH**

With 30 years of show business in western Canada behind him — 28 of them in Regina—Harry A. Bercovich, manager of the Broadway Theatre, is looking to the future.

He's been managing Regina theatres since June 21, 1919, when he came to the city as Saskatchewan supervisor of the Allen Theatre enterprises and prior to that he managed two houses at Moose Jaw.

Mr. Bercovich entered show business in the spring of 1917 when he joined the Allen Theatre organization in Edmonton and travelled as manager of a road show, "Joanne the Woman," starring Geraldine Farrar and carrying a 12-piece orchestra.

He had completed his education in Winnipeg and was in the Edmonton area as a gramophone representative, travelling from farm to farm with horse and buggy and giving gramophones to all who bought 20 records.

From Edmonton, Mr. Bercovich went to Moose Jaw to manage the Monarch and Allen Theatres and June 21, 1919, he reached Regina to manage

three of the six theatres in the city — the Allen, the Rex and the Rose.

In 1922 the Allen company went into liquidation and Mr. Bercovich leased the Rose Theatre, where the Broder building now stands. He took over the management of the Rex Theatre in the fall of the same year and ran it until it burned Sept. 9, 1938. He was also operating the Broadway Theatre, which he had built. The Broadway opened Jan. 1, 1930, and closed two years later because of the depression.

The rebuilt Rex was managed by Mr. Bercovich from its opening in March, 1939, to February, 1942, when he left to reopen the extensively altered Broadway the following month.

The short sketch above is an excerpt from the Regina Leader-Post of June 1947, at which time Mr. Bercovich celebrated his 30th anniversary in Regina. We are proud to add that the Post also published the picture above in which Mr. Bercovich, like a good Canadian exhibitor, sits reading the Digest.

**WALTER KENNEDY**

Having started with the Griffin Amusement Company in Toronto, where he was born and educated, Walter Kennedy can boast of 35 years in showbusiness to date. From the Griffin company, he went to General Films, then to Educational, when it was founded by Oscar Hanson, and finally to Empire-Universal in the capacity of General Manager of Sovereign Films, when Educational was taken over by that company. This year, Mr. Kennedy was appointed Director of Advertising and Public Relations for Empire-Universal.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

and

GOOD WISHES

★

**CANADIAN AUTOMATIC
CONFECTIONS**

Limited

and

**SUPER-PUFF'T POPCORN
Limited**

83 Duke Street

Toronto



RALPH DALE

A native Torontonion, Ralph Dale made his first step into the industry when he joined Paramount in 1923 as a poster clerk; and his second, when he became a booker there. Since then, the steps have hastened into a walk and, finally today, a run.

After several years with Famous Players as a booker, he joined Odeon in 1941 as chief buyer and, in 1945, joined forces with Sam Fingold in Theatre Amusements and remained with the company when it became National Theatre Services.

These are only the bare bones of the story of a man who, by dint of effort and ability, rose from the very bottom rung of the ladder and who, in doing so, has incurred the friendship and respect of all his associates.



IZZIE ALLEN



SAM FINGOLD

This year which is rapidly running out, 1949, is only the 10th anniversary of the entry of Sam Fingold into the moving picture business in Canada. In 1939, Mr. Fingold bought the Roxy Theatre in Mount Forrest and acquired the Roxy, Harriston in the same year. After purchasing a few more theatres, he began building them for himself in 1941, the year in which the Roxy, Cornwall was constructed, at which time he entered into partnership with Odeon.

In 1942, Mr. Fingold started Theatre Amusements Co., acquiring theatres in Bowmanville, Grimsby, etc. When Mr. Dale joined the company in 1945, 6 theatres were added and, the next year, in partnership with Odeon, Mr. Fingold formed National Theatre Services.

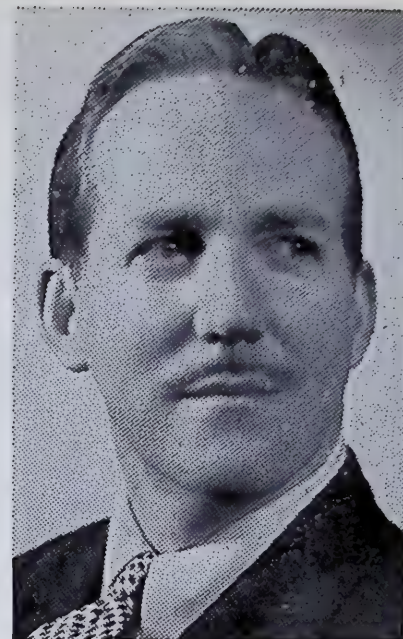
He has since acquired Associated Booking (which has been re-named National Booking Company), a buying and booking organization under the direction of Lionel Lester., and has added thirteen theatres which brings the total of National Theatres up to 35 — and that's only the beginning. National Theatre Services is still a young company with a great future.



Mr. I. H. Allen has expressed a wish to be referred to in the pages of this journal by no other moniker than that of "Izzie" — that is his Christmas wish and we shall honor it.

As for his biography, he has given us a message instead and here it is:

"You can quote me as saying that I think show business is the greatest business in the world; I think the people in this business are the greatest people in the world; and I think that Film Classics, which I distribute in Canada, are the greatest pictures in the world." So be it.



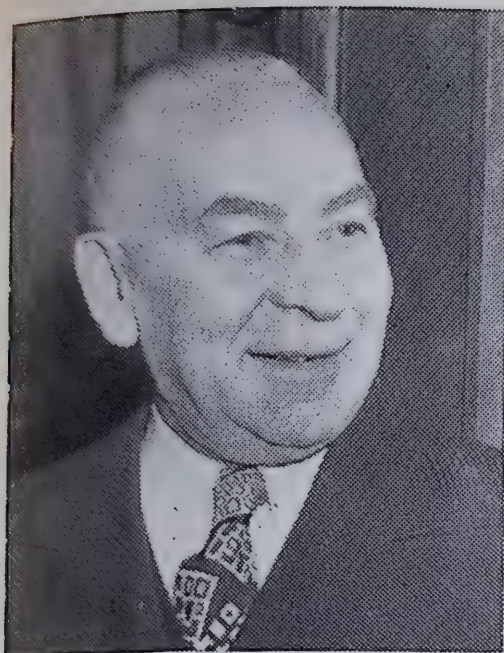
WIN BARRON

Although he was engaged in the various branches of show business from the time that he worked under Jack Arthur exploiting pictures at Toronto's Uptown Theatre, Win Barron considers that he didn't actually get into the film business until 1941, when he was approached by Del Goodman to do publicity for Paramount. From the early days at the Uptown until that time, Win was very active in radio, instigating the first Hollywood chatter column over station CFCA in 1927, and continuing as a columnist of the air until he went to England to produce the Lux Radio Theatre there.

Subsequently, he returned to Canada to work on "49th Parallel" when that picture was being produced here and that's when Del Goodman came up with his offer of the Paramount publicity berth. Almost immediately, Win started to branch out. He became the 'voice' on the Canadian Paramount newsreel in 1942, then began to write the newsreel himself and, 3 years ago, was made editor.

During this period of editorship, he blasted the trade-paper headlines by getting a scoop on the Royal Wedding, for which event he went to England. To witness the fact that this was a bonefide achievement, Toronto radio listeners were treated to an account of Win's Royal Wedding beat only very recently, on the morning of December 17th. They're still talking about it.

As an added note, we'd like to mention that Win won the Award for the best short of 1947 for his Canadian Paramount newsreel—a most unusual honor for a newsreel and, incidentally, a very high honor for Winston Barron.

**JACK MILES**

Jack Miles was born in Russia. He came to Canada in 1905 at the age of 18 and settled in Winnipeg. He saw a lot of houses that needed painting, so hung out his Shingle as a Painting Contractor. A year later, he opened a Bicycle Shop, and over the next five years expanded his business to three shops. Mr. Miles introduced the Harley Davidson Motorcycle to Winnipeg. While still in the bicycle business, he became interested in the movies, and in 1912 planned and built the Palace Theatre, the sixth theatre to be constructed in Winnipeg. Mr. Miles followed this by building the Rose, Plaza, and finally the Uptown in 1931. In 1935, Mr. Miles further expanded his theatre business by acquiring the three Universal Houses — the Lyceum, College and Starland. In 1936, Mr. Miles became associated with Famous Players Canadian Corporation Limited and now heads a chain of eighteen theatres in the City of Winnipeg. Now President and Managing Director of Western Theatres Limited, Mr. Miles brought the first Drive-In Theatre to the Middle West in 1949 when he constructed a modern Drive-In Theatre in Fort Garry. Jack Miles is truly the 'King' of the Movie Business in Winnipeg, and though a tough Business Executive, he is well liked by the industry at large throughout Canada.

**JOSEPH MARKS**

It is fitting that the Digest should be running this tribute to Joe Marks at this time because, as he will proudly tell you, January 22nd, 1950, marks his 28th year in showbusiness. Starting with Ideal Films in Glasgow in 1922, he shortly became the youngest branch manager in the business at that time. From this company, he went to RKO as the first man on their British sales staff, then to Pathe Pictures and, finally, came to Canada with the David Selznick Organization. Upon the recent amalgamation of Selznick and Alliance in Canada, Joseph became Sales Manager for the new company.

The great feast of Saturn was held in December when the people decorated the temples with such green things as they could find. With the Romans, the feast of Saturn was celebrated December 17th, the 18th and 19th. During its continuance, no public business could be transacted, the law courts were closed, the schools kept holiday, no war could be commenced, and no malefactor punished. Under the empire the festival was extended to seven days.

The Christian custom transferred the Feast of Saturn to Him Who Was Born in Bethlehem on Christmas Day.

**BEN FREEDMAN**

Ben Freedman entered the film industry in the finest company in the world, that of his father, Samuel Freedman, then owner of the Monarch Theatre in Toronto. That was back in 1917. In the intervening years, Mr. Freedman purchased the Hillcrest, the Crystal (now the Apollo) and the Royal Theatre in Longbranch. The last purchase was 20 years ago and since that time, Mr. Freedman has, in his own words "devoted himself to the good and welfare of all the independent theatre owners in Ontario."

To this end, he originally founded the Independent Theatre Owner's Association out of which has grown the present Allied Cooperative Theatres of Ontario, of which buying and booking concern Mr. Freedman is president.

However, despite all his work for the Independents — and a lot of it gratis — Ben Freedman has not been too busy to make his mark on the theatre world at large. He is a Director of the Motion Picture Pioneers, a member of the Film Section of the Board of Trade and, during the past years, has filled the honored post of Doughguy in the Toronto Variety Tent.

Compliments of the Season

AND

GOOD WISHES TO ALL OUR FRIENDS
IN THE INDUSTRY

B & L THEATRES

M. S. Bernstein - J. Lieberman
SAINT JOHN, N.B.



LEN BISHOP

Leonard Bishop was the eldest of the 7 children in the Bishop family. He tells us that he started to work the day he landed in Winnipeg and, from there on, continued his education at night classes. After 4 years in a chartered accountant's office, Len started in showbusiness in Calgary in 1920. From Calgary, he went to such varied towns as Winnipeg, Fort William, Sault Ste. Marie, Montreal, and Halifax, becoming, as he says, "the most moved manager on the Famous Players circuit".

Always having been interested in theatricals and the drama, Len managed road shows in Ottawa and, while in Hamilton, staged a quiz show on the stage in which he was the Professor. Today, during off hours at the Tivoli Theatre, Toronto, Leonard practices photography which he has developed from a hobby to an important sideline for him. In fact, several of the pictures which you see in the Digest of Toronto's familiar faces are there through courtesy of Len Bishop.



HAROLD BISHOP

This member of the well-known Bishop family was born in London, England and came to Winnipeg in 1912.

He was educated in Winnipeg at Machray and St. John's Technical High School and entered show business in 1922 as Assistant Manager and Treasurer under the late H. M. Thomas.

Except for a brief sojourn in Eastern Canada in 1936, where he managed the Capitol in Montreal and the Capitol in London, Ont., he has spent the rest of his theatrical career in Western Canada, managing the Capitol and Metropolitan Theatres in Winnipeg, the Capitol and Empress Theatres in Edmonton, the Capitol and Grand Theatres in Calgary.

Harold was appointed to the position of Manitoba District Manager in 1945.



TOM DALEY

Born in St. John, N.B., Tom Daley started as Projectionist at the Unique Theatre, St. John, N.B., May 24th, 1907. From there he went to the Unique Theatre, Halifax, N.S., 1908 and to the Lyric and Gem Theatres, St. John, N.B., 1908 to 1916.

Arriving at the Casino Theatre, Halifax, 1916, he was appointed Manager of Casino in 1918.

Tom started with Famous Players, Algoma Theatre, Sault Ste. Marie in 1923; transferred to Danforth Theatre, Toronto, 1924; was appointed manager of Tivoli, Toronto in 1925; transferred to Uptown Theatre, 1930; transferred to Imperial, Toronto, 1936, where he now resides.

He is actively engaged in Kiwanis Boys and Girls Work; a member of Famous Players 25 Year Club; Toronto Board of Trade; Director of Canadian Council of Christians and Jews; a member of Variety Club, Canadian Picture Pioneers, Kiwanis Club, and Police "K" Club.



LIGHT UP YOUR YEAR

with

The New Luminous Posters

40 by 60

30 by 40

24 by 82

from

THEATRE POSTER SERVICE

277 VICTORIA STREET

TORONTO

**NAT TAYLOR**

Nat Taylor's birthday could make him about forty-five. He is among the youngest of our important exhibitor-executives in Canada. Started in show business when about 12 years of age, distributing theatre heralds for a theatre called the Adanac on College St., Toronto.

In 1923, Nat took a law course at the University of Toronto and was interested in the operation of the Monarch Theatre on College St. which was sold in 1924. This same year, still a student of law, he became assistant secretary of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners Association of which Ray Lewis was secretary, and eventually he became secretary of this Association. Later he helped to organize the Independent Theatre Association, with the late Bud Lennon and Earl Lawson, the three responsible for the formation of the first booking-buying co-operative in Canada, Exhibitors Co-operative Association Limited. Later on, he purchased from his associates their interests and in 1931, merged Exhibitors Co-operative with Oscar Hanson's Community Theatres of Canada Limited, trading under the name of Associated Theatres Ltd.

In 1935, the partnership arrangement was dissolved, and Nat Taylor and Raoul Auerbach, the latter who had been associated with him in his film ventures, formed the Exhibitors Booking Association.

In 1934, he operated the College Theatre in Kitchener, which is now the Century and from which name the 20th-Century received its trademark. Charley Stevenson was manager of the theatre in Kitchener.

The Community in Hamilton was next acquired in partnership with Fred C. Brown. Another partnership was formed with the Strand Theatre, Toronto, now the Victory, in association with the Meyer Axler interests.

In 1941, 20th-Century had 17 units

**ARTHUR SILVERSTONE**

Arthur Silverstone comes, of course, from a film family. Not only that, but he has spent his life in this industry in many parts of the world, from the time he was a very young boy when he entered the business as a shipper in New York City. Joining the United Artists sales force in England in 1924, he was made General Sales Manager for UA in England very shortly afterwards.

In 1942, he returned to New York as Eastern Divisional Manager for UA and, in 1493, joined 20th-Century Fox to return to England as Home Office Representative.

It seems that all roads lead to Canada for, on January 1st, 1948, Mr. Silverstone came to Toronto as Canadian General Sales Manager for Fox. In a few weeks, he will celebrate his second anniversary in this country and the Digest extends to him congratulations and extends to him every good wish for a long and happy stay here.

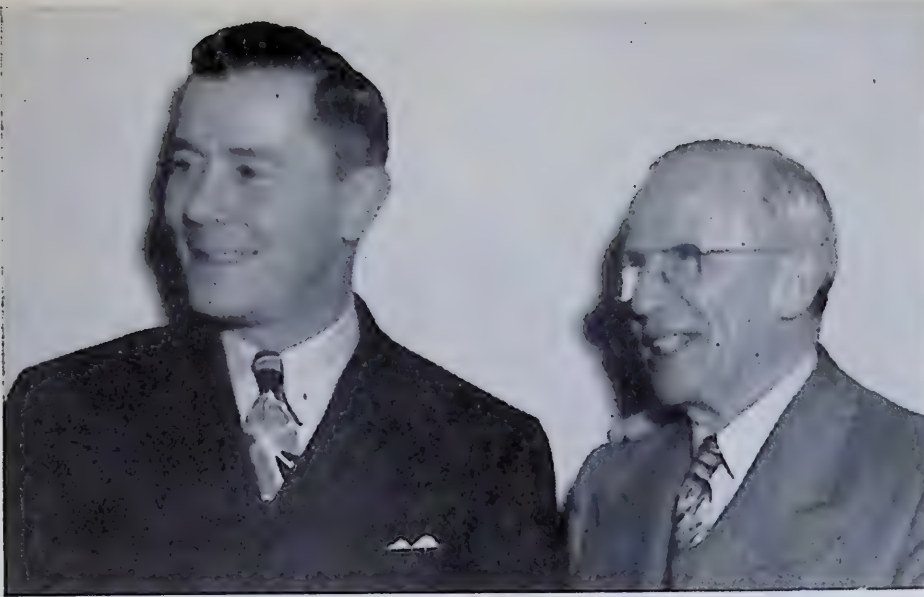
in operation, and it was about this time that the late N. L. Nathanson, who had resigned from the presidency of Famous Players Canadian Corp., organized General Theatres Investment, the origin of the Odeon Theatres of Canada circuit of theatres. Nat Taylor was to be vice-president of the General Theatres Investment, but joined Famous Players Canadian Corp. and Twinex Century Theatres Corp. was formed and which includes, E.B.A. and Inter-Theatres Service Ltd. This Company now books 65 theatres in Ontario, a number of which theatres are directly operated by 20th-Century and Famous Players Canadian Corp. Under a partnership agreement among the new theatres recently built in Toronto are the Glendale, the Downtown, the Towne, Birchcliff, and, among reconstructed theatres, are the Midtown, the Park (formerly the Bedford) the Astor, formerly the Embassy, all in Toronto.

**SIMON MERETSKY**

Simon Meretsky, Paramount Windsor Theatres Limited, partner of Famous Players Canadian Corporation in the operation of Capitol, Palace, Tivoli, Centre, Park and Empire Theatres, Windsor, Ontario, otherwise famous for Meretsky witticisms with intent and by accident.

While not the mayor of Windsor, Meretsky is still a major in the city of Windsor for young and old, poor and rich come to Simon to find the answer to their problems; and Simon dispenses judgement with the wisdom of a King Solomon. As a shrewd trader Simon is without peer, for he came up the hard way, back from the days when Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, formed United Artists to present some of the best and biggest box-office pictures on the market. The sky was the limit for Simon, who found more gold in the box-office than in the metal of his Salvage Company.

Pioneer and veteran showman in Canada, Simon is noted for his leadership in all philanthropic and charitable drives. As for his age, he is very very close to seventy, but still sounds like an atom bomb when he hits the film centre in Toronto. Simon always gives you his box-office receipts in talking about the other fellow's product; and when he praises a picture he always has the box-office to back up his words of praise. Apropos of Simon's originality and flair for exploitation here is an example — In advertising "Pygmalion", Simon added "NOT A PIG IN THE CAST"!



SAM BLOOM and SAM FINE

For the full treatment of Bloom and Fine (the two Sams) see the Digest of December 4th, 1948, at which time they graced our front page with their portraits and life-stories. In case you haven't a Digest in your file, suffice it to say that B. and F. have spent a long and successful career in the theatre life of Ontario, a vocation which Mr. Bloom inherited from his mother. The

tradition is in no danger of being let down for, today, Jack Fine and Martin Bloom, the sons of the pioneers (so to speak) have both taken their place in the organization; and so it appears that the B & F name is destined for a long history in the future as well as the past of the Canadian moving picture industry.



OSCAR HANSON

Oscar Hanson is much too busy with present business to discuss the past, this year. Even so, his very full career in Canadian films as Vice-President of Empire-Universal, President of Associated Theatres, etc. could easily fill a full page of the Digest, for the past history of Mr. Hanson is as interesting as is the present.

This year, he has cracked the Digest headlines twice — once by engineering the deal whereby Korda and Wilcox pictures (for which he is personal representative in Canada) were sold away from their U.S. affiliate and, recently, by being appointed producers' representative for Monogram and Allied Artists in Canada. We're keeping the cut you see above handy, because Mr. Hanson is just the kind of a person that is quite likely to turn up at the head of another news-beat next week.



Season's Greetings

W. B. ADAMSON, Mgr.
Cardinal Films
VANCOUVER

H. W. CHESNEY, Mgr.
Cardinal Films
CALGARY

L. McKENZIE, Mgr.
Cardinal Films
ST. JOHN

HARRY J. ALLEN
PRESIDENT

E. V. ATKINSON, Mgr.
Cardinal Films
MONTREAL

H. S. KING, Mgr.
Cardinal Films
TORONTO

L. MILES, Mgr.
Cardinal Films
WINNIPEG

LESLIE A. ALLEN
GENERAL MANAGER



Cardinal Films Limited

HEAD OFFICE: 700 BAY ST., TORONTO

Old Christmas Day was on January 6th. When George XIII reformed the calendar in 1582, he omitted ten days; but, when the new style was adopted in England in 1752, it was necessary to cut off eleven days, which drove back January 6th to December 25th of the previous year. So what we now call January 6th in the old style would be Christmas Day, or December 25th.



C. BOURASSA
(A Self-Portrait)

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1897, educated in Three-Rivers, Quebec, where he was a student at law under the Honorable Jacques Bureau, then Solicitor General in the Laurier Cabinet.

Came to Montreal in 1911 and entered the newspaper field at La Presse. In 1912, joined Le Canada where he became the editor and Managing Director, succeeding to the late Fernand Rinfret when he joined the King Cabinet as Secretary of State in 1926.

Today, he is the publisher of "Le Matin" the largest French morning Daily.

Secretary of Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries. He entered the moving picture industry in 1943 by accident, has stayed by inclination and will continue by duty.

He has only one regret — will never be a "pioneer" unless he lives so old that his friends will send him to Hollywood to make a film: "The man neglecting to be buried."

* * *

K. M. LEACH

A few weeks ago, the Digest ran an item that Ken Leach had re-opened the old Empress, Calgary, with a new name, "The Hitchin' Post," and a new policy — western and action pictures first run. Still in the news after 37 years in showbusiness — that's quite a record. For Ken Leach started in the theatre business in the fall of 1912 at Swift Current, Sask. in a small, 350-seat house. He remained there until the spring of 1917 when he moved to Calgary and took over the Regent and Princess Theatres. Since then, he has been a loyal Calgarian, as witness the Stetson when he was in town recently for the Grey Cup final. Since 1926, he has been in a partnership arrangement with Famous Players and is presently operating the Strand, Variety and, of course, the Hitchin' Post in Calgary.

P.S. Although he didn't mention it in the short biographical sketch he sent us, Ken Leach is also the very capable president of the Alberta Theatres Association.



E. A. ZORN

Mr. Zorn writes, with great modesty.

"As for myself, this would have to be very brief because my career in the show business has been very varied and very long, amounting to approximately forty years. During this time I have been owner of first-run theatres, have had great experience with Roadshows, B. F. Keith Vaudeville and other adventures in the show business, even to having owned and operated a carnival company at one time.

I have been with Famous Players as Western District Manager in the west since August, 1948, and this territory embodies Western Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, operating two offices, the Home Office in Winnipeg and the other in Calgary."

* * *

RALPH ELLIS APPOINTED NFB THEATRICAL DISTRIB.

Ralph Ellis of Halifax has been appointed co-ordinator of theatrical distribution for the National Film Board, it was announced

A 26-year-old native of Milton, Nova Scotia, Ellis has been with the Film Board for the past three years. He joined the organization in 1945 as field representative for the Annapolis district and was later transferred to the Halifax area. His new duties take him to Ottawa where he assumes charge of distributing NFB films to commercial theatres across Canada.

Mr. Ellis succeeds Norman Chamberlin who leaves to take a new post with the Department of National Health and Welfare. In his capacity as liaison officer with that department Mr. Chamberlin will continue to work closely with the Film Board.



GEORGE DOWBIGGAN

George Elliott Dowiggin was born in Seacombe, England, - May 30th, 1901. He is one of the very few of our subjects who gave this information so willingly. After going to school in Montreal, he worked in stock brokers' office 1915 - 1920. Went west to Paramount Pictures as shipper, 1920-1922; transferred to Winnipeg for Paramount 1922-1924; worked for First National and R.K.O. until 1933, then to Famous Players as manager of the Crescent Theatre. Next, assistant manager of the Metropolitan Theatre, Winnipeg, then manager of the Gaiety Theatre.

He was appointed District Booker in 1938.

* * *

LARRY STEPHENS

Larry Stephens has been brightening up the Public Relations corner of the Eagle-Lion organization since August of 1948 but his history in the film business dates back long before that. After his schooling in Montreal, Larry joined the Butterfield Chain in the state of Michigan, starting as a doorman and eventually, rising to the position of publicity chief. In 1931, he returned to Montreal and managed His Majesty's Theatre there for three seasons. Subsequently, he was lured away from His Majesty's by United Amusements with whom he remained until June of 1945 when he came to Toronto as Public Relations and Advertising director for UA. From there, it was just a few short blocks over to the Odeon building and several terrific campaigns on Eagle-Lion pictures not the least of which was the job on "The Red Shoes" which recently won him a garland of accolades from J. Arthur Rank and all the men who worked on the picture. As Time magazine would say (see Digest, August 20th, 1949.)

**JULES ALLEN****LOUIS ROSENFELD**

The name Louis Rosenfeld has been a prominent one in Canadian films since the year 1914, at which time he was head of the Famous Players Film Service, which then had the franchise for Paramount Pictures. Remaining with this company until 1919, Mr. Rosenfeld then formed the Independent Film Company, Ltd., to distribute Columbia Pictures in Canada. When the name of this company was changed to Columbia Pictures of Canada, Ltd., Louis Rosenfeld became president in which capacity he built the new exchange from the ground up to its present prominence. This achievement marks Louis Rosenfeld among the outstanding film-men in Canada today.

Mr. Rosenfeld is also a partner in Premier Operating Corporation.

The name of Allen, among all the familiar names in this issue of the Digest needs no explanation to Canadian film people.

Known today as "The Dean of the Canadian Motion Picture Industry", Jule Allen early saw the possibilities of motion pictures as mass entertainment and, in partnership with his brother, the late J. J. Allen and his father, the late Barney Allen, founded one of the first Canadian circuits of a larger size.

They opened their first theatre, a converted store, in Brantford, Ont., in 1905 and, as time vindicated their faith in moving pictures, continued to establish theatres in the Dominion's most fruitful places. After opening and operating several nickel shows at Brantford, Kingston, Chatham and Berlin, Ont. (the name of Berlin was changed to Kitchener during the first World War), the two Allen brothers sold out and moved west to Calgary in 1910, where they were joined by Herbert Allen and Louis Rosenfeld in 1912. As well as a circuit of theatres in the west, they also operated a film exchange, the Canadian Film Company, with branches in the east.

In 1915, Jule Allen moved back to Toronto and began the building of a circuit of theatres in the east, to complement the western chain.

During the depression of 1920 and '21, Allen Theatres Limited met with financial difficulties and the Allens started all over again to rebuild a new chain of theatres.

It is a privilege for the Digest to present among the best known names and faces, those of Jule and Herbert Allen; for the fact that the motion picture industry has gained the pre-eminence in this country which it now enjoys is due to the pioneering efforts and determination of men like these.

In 1929, Theatre Holding Corp. was formed in partnership with Famous Players to take over their existing theatres. This chain has expanded until it now includes approximately 50 theatres. These theatres and others are operated by Premier Operating Company of which Jule Allen is the president.

**HERBERT ALLEN****HARVEY HARNICK**

Harvey Harnick's success story goes to prove that there is no such thing as a bad time provided that you have a good man, for Harvey started in the film business in 1929, when the depression was just beginning, and was able to climb upwards on the ladder all during that slump. In 1932, he was sent to Montreal as a booker salesman for Columbia (with which company he has been all during his career in this industry) and, in 1934, became salesman-at-large for all of Canada. In 1936, he returned to Toronto as salesman and, in 1939, went to Calgary as Branch Manager for Columbia there. Three years later he was recalled to Toronto as Louis Rosenfeld's assistant and, in 1946, was named General Sales Manager for Columbia Pictures of Canada.



ALEX ADILMAN

Alex Adilman — who does not know Alex Adilman in our film trade? He is ageless, therefore the date of his birth is not of importance. What is important is that he is so closely identified and so active a member of our industry that, whenever and wherever you mention the name of Alex Adilman, the name provokes a smile, and starts a chain of stories, concerning his shrewdness, his kindness, and incidents in his life which are so unique that with one grand chorus we all say, "There is only one such Alex in the world".

As a co-partner with Arthur Hirsch in the operation of Consolidated Theatres of Montreal Limited, this circuit includes the first-run theatres in Montreal of key importance, operated as partner-affiliates of Famous Players Canadian Corp., and which include, Loew's, Capitol, Palace, Princess, Imperial, Orpheum, His Majesty's and Passe Temps Theatres all in Montreal, and the Cambrai, Victoria, and Classic in Quebec City. There is, also, a theatre in Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec, which belongs to Hirsch and Adilman. His Majesty's plays road shows.

In addition to theatre operation, Alex has occasionally taken a flier in distribution, for years ago he was associated with Grand National pictures.

A new theatre for French language pictures in the heart of Montreal will soon be constructed.



HENRY NATHANSON

Born Minneapolis, Minn., Henry L. Nathanson has been President of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures of Canada Ltd., since 1941. He began as salesman at Regal Films, Winnipeg, Man., 1916; manager, 1919; became assistant to the General Manager in Toronto in 1922 and Vice-President and General Manager in 1926.

Mr. Nathanson assumed his present position when Regal Films became incorporated with Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer.

Visitors to Montreal make a bee-line for Consolidated, for even if they sell him no pictures, they are richly rewarded by an hour spent in his office and always warmly welcomed, whether they come from the U.S., from abroad, or different parts of Canada. Every charitable and philanthropic service representative also knows the well-worn path to Consolidated, and the lame, the halt and the blind, never leave that office without a gift or a consideration of their appeal.

A bachelor until a few years ago, Alex was married in Montreal to a widow he had known from his old home-town Winnipeg, and it is generally the opinion of those who know Beck and Alex that their marriage "was made in heaven".



DEWEY BLOOM

Born and educated in Hamilton, Ont., Dewey Bloom first entered the show world in New York City in 1924 when he took over the publicity and advertising for Selwyn's "Charlot's Revue" and Jane Cowl's production of "Romeo and Juliet". He entered the film end of the business when he took charge of Fox's Japanese Garden movie house on upper Broadway. Then, joined Associated Pictures to handle publicity on Barbara LaMarr productions, released through First National. Shortly afterwards, he became Studio Publicity Director for Pathe at their Long Island Studios handling Allene Ray serials, "The Green Archer", etc. Later he formed his own publicity agency in New York with clients including Gertrude Lawrence, Allene Ray, the Actor's Fund of America, etc.

After a brief sojourn in England and on the continent, during which time, among other things, he managed Gertrude Lawrence who was then appearing in a Gershwin musical at His Majesty's, he returned to America with Miss Lawrence and arranged with Gilbert Miller for her first legitimate role in "By Candlelight" with Leslie Howard and Reginald Owen.

Following a brief illness, he joined the exploitation staff of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer under Howard Deitz and W. R. Ferguson for road-show engagements of "Trader Horn". He was employed by Henry Nathanson in 1931 to handle the sales and advertising for Regal Films' British product, later switching to MGM product in its entirety. He has been Canadian Promotion Representative for MGM ever since and is one of the best-known and best-liked film men in the country.

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NEW CANADIAN CAMEO FEATURES EVENTS OF '49

Topflight newsreel stories of the past year have been edited by Associated Screen News into a pulse-stirring ten-minute film called Canadian Headlines of 1949.

The latest in the current Canadian Cameo series of all-Canadian subjects, Canadian Headlines of 1949 records for posterity events of great import to the country. The flashy Toronto Maple Leafs are seen taking the Stanley Cup for their third straight win. The battling Calgary Stampeders go down to defeat at the hands of the powerful Montreal Alouettes in the east-west Grey Cup football classic.

On the historic side, the camera has recorded Newfoundland becoming Canada's tenth province, and the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent leading the Liberals to a landslide win. Mid-west Winnipeg celebrates her 75th birthday, while on the east coast solid Halifax has a bicentennial celebration.

Tragedy and pathos are there, too, as vivid scenes bring to life the tragic Noronic disaster, the worst in Canada's marine history. To round out the bill, a little oomph is introduced as a young Vancouver girl shows excellent form to capture the title of "Miss Canada of 1949."

Last year's Canadian Headlines won an award for excellence from the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and advance information indicates that this year's edition is well up to par with its predecessors.

This film is being released through Empire-Universal exchanges, and will be shown in first-run theatres about mid-December.

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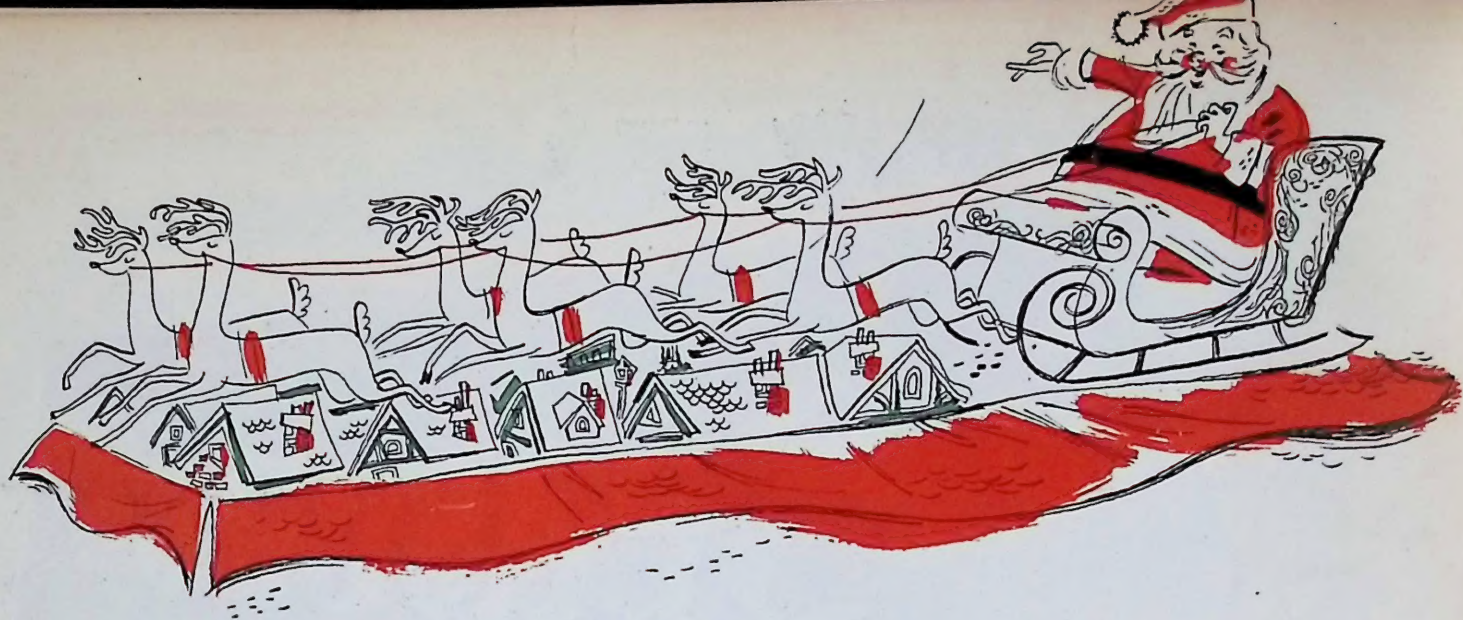
JOHNNY COHN

Season's Greetings

from
THE EXECUTIVES
AND
STAFF

Empire-National-Films Limited





A VERY

Merry Christmas

AND

Happy New Year

TO YOU ALL

